

# ILLUSTRATED TIMES

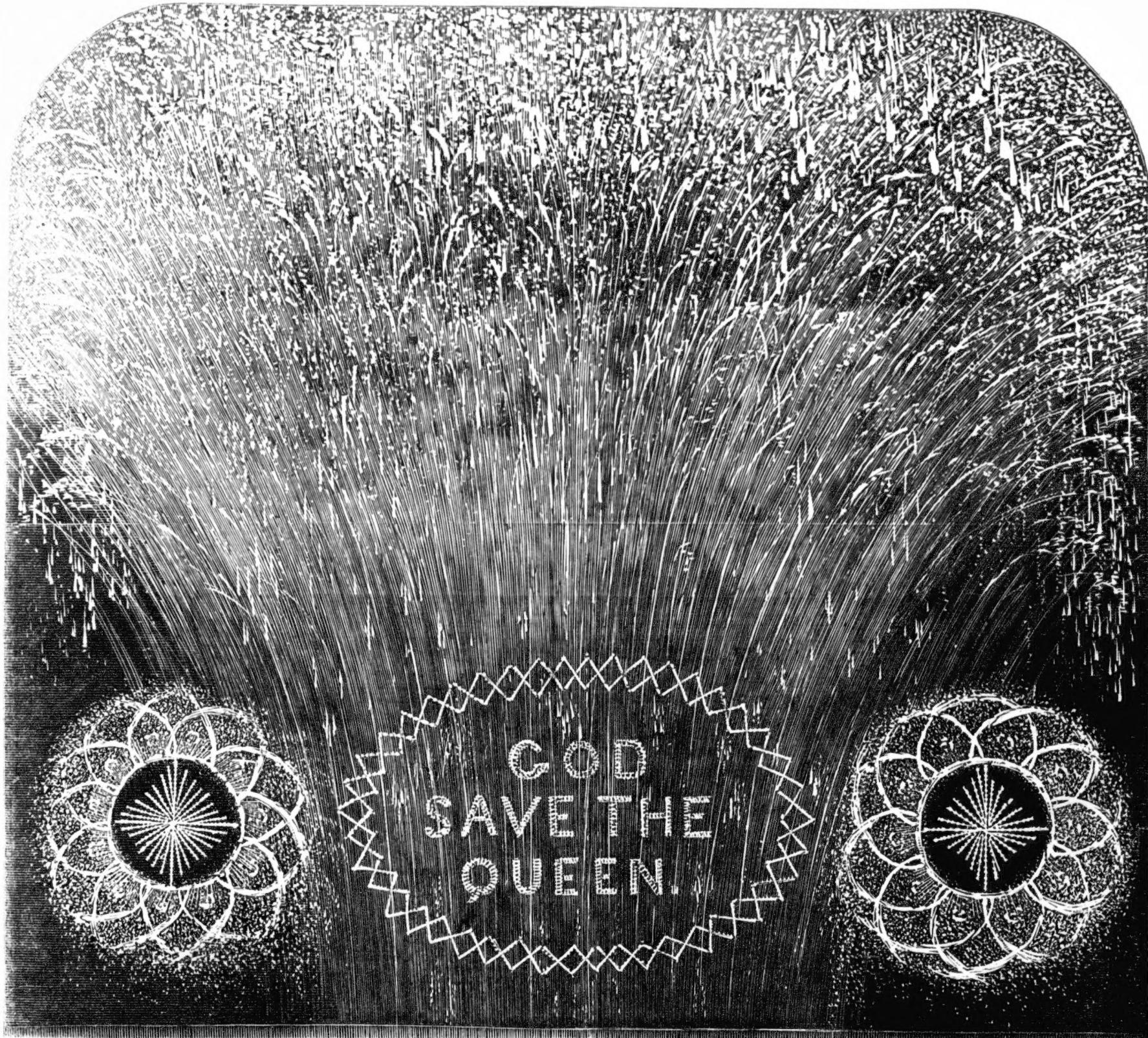


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THE FIREWORKS IN THE GREEN PARK—THE CONCLUDING TABLEAU.

## OUR DOMESTIC POLICY.

THE Session is waning away. A few weeks will find us contemplating its close; and, considering what it has achieved, we fear the net result will not be found satisfactory. The same observation was made last year. We were then disposed to leave everything for the sake of the war, but that pretext for the neglect of useful measures is gone. Party fights are rarer likewise; and still we find ourselves watching the House, with a vague idea that something ought to be coming out of it, which never comes. It is like watching a windmill, with its sails all going, but with no sacks of flour making their appearance. The veriest Quixote might be pardoned for tilting at such an extraordinary creation.

The British people, we fancy, are in a good-humoured state just now, barring the Sunday business, for which, however, they blame the saints. Thugs are tolerably cheap: tea and coffee are increasing in consumption—beer is steady! We do not, therefore, hear complaints of any violence as to education measures, Irish Church, &c. The fireworks were a good stroke of Palmerston's, and, by and by, he will perhaps throw open Cremorne *gratis*. But, by degrees, the war will grow cold in remembrance, and the fireworks too; and we shall find "hard times" and agitation taking their turn again. It will be then that we shall miss those practical measures, which, passed in quiet periods, tell in disturbed ones, but which our curiosity about foreign affairs, and similar exciting topics, has helped to keep for the present in the background. Then we shall have those murmurs at the Parliament which used to be heard at the Crown; for, in spite of the economists, simple people will always believe that the doings of Government have a direct connection with their prosperity, and that it is, somehow, Government's fault if they are not prosperous. We see the worst forms of Governments stand by a care for the material well-being of the mass; we see the best forms of Government endangered by a neglect of it. For instance, we hear a great deal of Austrian misgovernment in Italy, but McCulloch will tell you that the Lombard peasant is "well-off." We know that Napoleon ruled Rome by force, but during that rule infanticide diminished (as one symptom that life was improving, among many); and Niebuhr could not help looking back at the régime with respect. The fact seems to be, that the state of the people is sign of the state of everything else. The soul and body of a State have a kind of harmony, like the human soul and body. In our ancient times, in England, there was rudeness and hardship; but there was not misery, perhaps, so great as we sometimes see now. Again, the riches which exist now do not necessarily prove that the whole people are happily circumstanced, any more than the riches which existed at Rome. And the case of Rome should teach us that the destiny of countries, and of their institutions, is at last determined by the condition of the many, when population has grown enormous, and when civilisation has produced those contrasts of circumstance which tell so powerfully on the human passions and desires.

The reader no doubt asks, with the man in "Persius," *Quorsum haec?*—What are we driving at? The answer is not difficult. Last week we inquired into the character of our foreign policy—we inquire now into domestic matters. Presuming that we are divided by a distinct line from the epoch of the Russian war—that we need not fear Russia's aggression—that our interference in Europe should be rigidly limited to cases of necessity—it is natural now that we should "look at home." We want to encourage that disposition—it is national and natural. We are the only people in Europe who have still the option—who have not lost their powers that way, to Governments over which they have little control; and we have not lost it, just because we have met social questions better than most. It is, indeed, a national distinction of ours. Our Poor Laws are a remarkable instance, and our charities. No nobleman or gentleman has ever quite been satisfied here that he had nothing to do but spend his rents; if he has, his family has suffered for it in a dozen ways. But social questions accumulate upon us rapidly now—are fast shelving political ones—or rather, are becoming the real political ones themselves. A curious illustration of this might have been observed the other day in Miall's Irish Church debate. It was not made a party question, but rather put off for the present, and without the violent displays that used to take place on such subjects. Mr. Spooner will not be allowed to inflame Ireland out of all chance of industrial improvement by his Maynooth design. The spirit of common sense is becoming more powerful against the spirit of bigotry. We want statesmen who will seize the time when party is weak, and the public inclined to be practical, and who will give us a Domestic Policy—a policy of social improvements—a vulgar, honest policy, such as Sydney Smith would have improved to help the emigrant—to help (or binder obstructions to) education—to adjust the taxes—to raise the peasant and artisan. For our own parts, we never look into the poor windows of a cottage, looking like a big doll's house—where, in a room not much bigger than that in a bathing-machine, some honest uncouth labourer is taking tea—without a whole series of reflections, such as the finest speech rarely inspires. He is a political question; and so is the collier and the weaver. We have seen him shambling along sometimes, and wondered whether the old "villain," or "porcarius" of Doomsday Book, were much worse off. But if you meddle with him, you provoke a whole chorus of opponents. The economist says you cannot help him, if you want to. If you patronise him, you are told not to attempt to restore "feudalism." A third talker comes and says, he will put himself to rights if you give him a vote—which means, that he will then vote for the talker, which, somehow, we do not want. All this variety belongs to our free constitution. We have a heterogeneous people and a various parliament; and we spend more time in discussions about government than in governing. Here is our mischief. The Whig is for constitutionalising, and the Radical for sweeping away; and between them there is little real reform, if reform mean social improvement. Yet England has more real talent for the latter than the former, and an individual Englishman is an excellent manager of his business. Our practical talent seems all to expend itself in our private affairs, and not to be forthcoming in our public ones. We have seen a professedly commercial country have, for its Chancellors of the Exchequer, successively, a man of letters, a theologian, and a classical scholar. To be sure, two of these were men of high genius, and genius can, more or less, do anything. But were they, on this occasion, in the office to which their own aspirations would wish to see them? Certainly not. What an illustration of the need of administrative reform!—a reform which, by the way, really includes all the others needed. And what foreign question ought to weigh with us more than one like this! With a better administration, foreign difficulties would not so readily arise. A Minister who is not wise about England is not likely to be a prodigy about Italy. We should urge this reform, then, as one of the first; and we see symptoms of

a willingness to take it up among men whom a professional reformer would probably view with jealousy. But it must not be taken up as a "craze," nor, what is still worse, as a "trade." And it must not be taken up so hostilely as to provoke too much antagonism: antagonism delays everything here. Churchman and Dissenter, landed man and millowner, are not, as Englishmen, of different interests in the long run; but their conflicts tell injuriously on the weaker classes of the community. Administrative reform will make no way, if it is pushed, for political purposes, by a political league. It must be indirectly achieved by the action of the established statesmen of the national will. But it may be further served by other means; for instance, by the progress of the competitive system in the civil service. We are steady supporters of this principle, without, we think, expecting too much from it. We hope more from education than most things, though we incline to believe with Lord Stanley, that we had better trust more to the spread of books and periodicals than to the chance of a great measure. A great measure seems impossible just now, but we should never lose sight of the subject. Education and administrative reform are nearly allied.

How striking has been our neglect of our colonisation—of that great movement of emigrants, which is such a feature in the modern world! Why, we neglect the commonest precautions for the safety of emigrant ships. And what are the consequences of this neglect? The settler in his new land looks back with no gratitude to the Government of his old one, and transmits an unfriendly tradition to his descendants. Half the difficulty we have with America is a result of this kind. There are crowds there who recollect the old country as a place that kicked out their grandsire by starvation or otherwise; and we can guess which way they incline, when Brick asks them whether they will submit to humiliation, or join in "wopping" Bull? Are we to have no better feeling in Australia? It would seem not, for we see the Australian papers full of disputes between our Government and the diggers, and of ovations to Gavan Duffy. A good domestic policy would take care for the future of that important land. Administrative reform, emigration, and education, are the great home measures necessary; the minor ones are innumerable. We by no means despise the *pas trop gouverner*, however, and are no zealots for that incessant minute legislation, which is the nuisance of bureaucracy.

How these reforms are to be brought about, is a question that must be determined by the other question—how a Ministry can be got to achieve them in our mixed party system? And it is here, even more than in war, that "representative institutions are on their trial." This famous expression has plenty of applications in everyday affairs. We might, some of us, think a coalition necessary, but the last coalition was not a "hit."

Yet there is one encouragement in this chaos of parties and waste of hopes—it is, that the country was never readier to accept a programme, without reference to party. We believe in that sign, and that, the war agitation being over, the people waits to give its best attention cheerfully to a Government with good schemes suited to peace. Who bids, gentlemen? Is it question to the governing classes. Or shall we have to wait for a new Parliament? If so, the sooner candidates make up their minds to a good domestic policy the better.

## Foreign Intelligence.

## FRANCE

The baptism of the Prince Imperial is fixed for the 14th of June, the anniversary of the battles of Marengo and Friedland. The mayors of all the chief towns of departments have been invited to be present at the ceremony. A similar invitation has been sent to the archbishops and bishops. After the baptism, the Emperor will leave for the baths of Plombières, at the same time that the Empress will proceed to the Chateau of Biarritz, where the Emperor will afterwards join her Majesty.

The Emperor has been to Lyons, to superintend in person whatever means may be taken to alleviate the suffering caused by the recent inundations. The Legislative Body have so far harmonised with this mission, as unanimously to vote the bill granting two millions of francs to those who have suffered from these calamities. The Emperor displayed great exertions in relieving the sufferers. The Emperor proceeded on horseback to the various points which had suffered most from the overflow of the waters. To the senator charged with the administration of the department of the Rhone, he gave the sum of one hundred thousand francs, taken from his privy purse, for distribution among the poor families, who have been the greatest sufferers from the inundation. His Majesty also remitted the sum of 25,000 francs to the Prefect of the Isère, that it may be bestowed in aid on the sufferers by the flood in that department.

Two divisions of the French army are to remain at Constantinople for some period after the general evacuation.

The Bourse has been greatly excited by the announcement of a considerable financial disaster. M. Place, the managing director of the Crédit Mobilier, is a defaulter to an enormous amount. Eighteen millions of francs is the smallest estimate of the deficit we have heard mentioned.

The great Agricultural Exhibition, or Cattle Show, was opened on Sunday at noon in the Palais de l'Industrie. The Exhibition was visited by large crowds of persons, many of whom were visitors from the provinces. The display of breeding animals was excellent. France herself, of course, affords a large number. Among bulls and cows the Durham shorthorns, the Alderneys, Guernseys, Devons, Herefords, and the Galloway and Ayrshire races, attracted particular attention, especially the two latter. Switzerland and Hungary were also well represented, but, on all hands, the palm was given to England, whose position as chief among agricultural nations was seen to great advantage and generally recognised.

## BELGIUM.

The project of law intended to be laid before the Chambers in Belgium, in pursuance of the engagement given by the Government, applies to three things in particular, viz., the stamp, the signing the article with the author's name, and the power given to the law officers of the Crown to institute proceedings without the necessity of a previous demand from a foreign Government.

## SPAIN.

The Spanish Government is determined to proceed with the greatest energy in the difficulty with Mexico, which arises out of the seizure of the property of Spanish subjects. At a Cabinet Council, held on the 27th ult., it was resolved to send to the Gulf of Mexico, independently of the naval forces detached from Cuba, two ships of the line, one frigate, and one corvette. One of those ships is now ready to put to sea, and the Government has ordered that the other should be fitted out with all possible despatch.

The committee charged to investigate the conduct of the ex-Queen Christina is about to present its report. It will leave to the Cortes themselves to decide whether or not her Majesty shall be impeached.

In different towns of Aragon some important personages have been arrested on the charge of having been concerned in Carlist conspiracies.

The Ex-King Regent of Portugal arrived at Taugiers on the 20th, and was received with great honour.

## AUSTRIA.

The visit of the Emperor Alexander to the King of Prussia is considered, at Vienna, as a regular demonstration against Austria.

About a year ago the police received information that the habits and manners of the workmen in the suburbs had undergone a very great

change—that "the men were more orderly and regular, and less noisy and rude than their fellows." The police suspected that some centre had been formed, with branch establishments, and the movements of the men were closely watched. Up to Whitsunday last nothing was discovered than that, instead of going to church, they recited Bibles differently at home, "and were so greatly averse to any ceremony, that, if one of their friends died, they abstained from carrying the corpse to the grave." On Whitsunday last they held a rally, and were surprised by the police. The persons arrested (one of whom, on their capture last week) call themselves "Brethren of St. John," and, long to a new religious sect. They are suspected of being in touch with the Hungarian Protestants, and it is therefore probable that time will elapse before they are set at liberty.

In consequence of the representations of his Protestant subjects to the arbitrary measures to which they have been subjected, the conclusion of the concordat, especially in matters concerning Protestant burials, the Emperor has issued a circular to the municipal police authorities, recommending them to oppose every measure calculated to wound the feelings of Protestants. Every subject of the Emperor, says this circular, enjoys the right of protection in his religion after life as during his existence, and no obstacle is to be placed in the way of religious ceremonies authorised by the laws.

## PRUSSIA

THE Emperor Alexander arrived at Berlin on the evening of the 30th ult. His Majesty was received on his arrival with the usual formalities, and left immediately for Potsdam. The reception took place amidst the playing of military bands and by the light of torches. The Emperor appeared very anxious to rejoin his august mother, whose health continues to cause disquietude. A grand review of Prussian troops took place at Berlin on Saturday, in the presence of the Emperor Alexander. The troops reviewed consisted of the entire garrison of Berlin, together with the 3rd Regiment of Lancers, which had been summoned to march up from their quarters as a surprise to their Imperial Colonel.

Sir William Williams, of Kars, dined at the King's table on the evening after the review. The Emperor of Russia, and all about him, treated Sir General with the greatest distinction. The Prince of Prussia seeing him a few days back, while viewing the interior of a church at Potsdam, manoeuvred so as to come round by one of the side aisles, and meet Sir General face to face, introduced himself to him, shook him by the hand, and entered into conversation with him. The Emperor Alexander has returned to St. Petersburg.

## RUSSIA

AT a ball lately held in the city of Warsaw, at which the Polish nobility were present, the Emperor of Russia announced that he had signed a general amnesty, which was to extend to all the Polish refugees and emigrants. The names of a few noted individuals are excluded from the benefit of this Imperial act. "Le Nord" has since published a circular addressed by Prince Gortschakoff, as Minister of Foreign Affairs, to all the chiefs of the Russian Legations abroad, making known the amnesty. These representatives are to apprise the refugees residing in the country to which they (the diplomats) are accredited, of the Imperial decision.

An imperial ukase places the educational establishments of Russia under the Emperor's special superintendence.

The *Corriere Italiano* of Vienna contains the following rather extraordinary piece of intelligence from St. Petersburg:—"A large body of troops are now on their march towards the countries washed by the Indus and the Ganges. Arrangements lately entered into at St. Petersburg leave no doubt on the subject. The Russian Government is, moreover, endeavouring to turn to account the experience acquired during the late war, and has it in contemplation to introduce material reforms in the military administration of the country. The army is to be completely reorganised. There will be eight special armies, each composed of eight corps d'armée. Regiments in time of peace are to have five battalions of from 500 to 1,000 men each, and eight in war. The riflemen will be considerably increased in number, the heavy cavalry disbanded, and the light cavalry materially augmented in strength."

M. de Budberg, Ambassador of Russia at Berlin, will be appointed to the Embassy at Vienna. He will be replaced at Berlin by M. de Brunow, at present Russian Minister Extraordinary at Paris. Prince Dolgorouki, formerly Minister at War, will be named to the Russian Embassy at Paris.

## ITALY

Two distinct but not opposing propagandisms are at work in Italy. They are known as the French and English propaganda. The former talks of the cessation of the temporal authority of the Pope, speculates on the abdication or deposition of the King of Naples, aims at the union of both States into one kingdom, under the title of the Kingdom of Southern Italy, and speak of Prince Murat as the future Sovereign of the country. The latter relates to Sicily.

Last advice from Genoa announces that the Sardinian General-in-Chief was daily expected in that city, where preparations were making to give him a triumphant reception. All the Generals who held commands in the Piedmontese Contingent were to be invested with higher rank on their return.

From Rome, we learn that Cardinal Antonelli was preparing a reply to the Memorandum of Count Cavour, and to the speech of Lord Palmerston, which the Pope had caused to be inserted in the *Giornale di Roma*. The Cardinal was collecting for the purpose a number of administrative and statistical documents, and the whole is to be forwarded to Paris.

Count de Colloredo Waldsee, the Austrian Minister, has had daily conferences with Count de Rayneval since his arrival at Rome.

General Farina, Minister of War, was strenuously exerting himself to complete the Pontifical Army, which on paper numbers 18,000 men, but in reality does not exceed 9,000. The foreign troops in the pay of the Pope consist of two Swiss regiments, the second of which is a mere skeleton. The revival of the order of Malta was again talked of. Knights might then be chosen in all the Catholic countries, to constitute a respectable and efficient armed force, but many insurmountable difficulties exist to prevent the realisation of that plan.

## GREECE

THE question of a succession to the throne of Greece is among the more prominent topics at Athens. At the erection of Greece into a kingdom in 1830, and the selection of King Otho for the throne, the succession was settled to devolve upon his next eldest brother, Prince Leopold of Bavaria, in default of his having heirs male. In the revolution of 1843, however, the provision was introduced into the new constitution, that in future the King should always be a member of the Greek Church, which King Otho is not. Prince Leopold, like his brother, is a Roman Catholic, and an obstinate one. It is notorious that he will not be disposed to mount the throne of Greece at the price of his changing his religion, as it is that the present King and Queen of that country are not likely to have any issue. At the same time, Prince Leopold will as little resign the right to the succession originally conferred upon him. The Royal couple, childless as they are, have entreated Prince Leopold to let them adopt one of his children, to send it to them in the second or third year, and let it be brought up in Greece in the Greek Church, and succeed to the throne in his stead, and to comply with the terms of the constitution. But this also Prince Leopold refuses, on the plea, that it is too much to expect of his wife that she should thus part entirely with one of her children.

The French Minister has received leave of absence, and set out for Paris.

The King of Greece will, on the 10th of June, embark on board the *Hydra* for Trieste.

## CHINA

LETTERS from Shanghai allude to the successes of the rebels at Nanjing over the imperialists, with rumours of the rebels moving again to Soochow, the great mart of the district of which Shanghai is the shipping port, and some fears were entertained lest this should cause an interruption to the usual course of trade.

A China junk, bound from Pinang to the Nicobars and Bassein, was out of her course, and came upon the Little Andaman Islands, where the whole crew attempted to effect a landing for water. Out of the thirty-

eight landed, while five remained in the boat. The savages, hitherto now sprang upon their helpless victims, tore them limb from limb, then devoured them. The five in the boat seeing this, shoved off to land, and set sail.

## AMERICA.

GENERAL WALKER's government in Nicaragua has at length been officially recognised by the United States. Padre Vilij, the Nicaraguan agent at Washington, on the 14th of April, called at the State department, where Mr. Marcy immediately received him and conducted him to the President, where he presented his credentials, and met with a cordial reception. The event created a great sensation. Generally speaking, the New York papers are averse to the step taken by President Pierce, asserting that the recognition of General Walker is ill-timed. Other journals assert that Walker should have been recognised many months since.

From Aspinwall we have news of a terrible catastrophe on the Panama road, on the 6th inst., by which between thirty and forty persons were killed and some severely or eighty wounded.

The DUBLIN "NATION" states that three of the Irish political exiles, John O'Brien, John Martin, and Kevin O'Doherty, have arrived in Ireland, and that O'Brien may be expected in the course of the month.

THE CROPS IN IRELAND.—The most cheering accounts of the crops are now received. The potatoes have a most flourishing appearance, and it is stated that even in the heaviest soils the rain has not inflicted any damage.

DISBURSTMENT IN BELFAST.—On Thursday week a disturbance took place on occasion of the embarkation of some companies of the 3rd West York Militia for Ireland. The Londonderry militia took part with their military comrades, and general mêlée ensued between them and the town mob, ending in the withdrawal of the troops within their barracks. Colonel Loftus was knocked down, and wounded, and it is not stated that any serious injuries were inflicted.

AWFUL THUNDER-STORM.—The following is an extract from a letter dated alone, May 27.—"One of the most fearful occurrences which ever took place in the country happened near Kilkeller, on Sunday evening last, two men being simultaneously deprived of life by a flash of lightning. It appears that a number of persons were gathered at the house of one of the deceased about seven o'clock in the evening, their object being to hear the contents of a letter from a friend in Australia. The party went out to the door, the better to see the writing, the evening was dark and cloudy. While there, the thunder-storm, which had been gathering for some time previously, greatly increased in violence, and flashes of lightning succeeded each other with terrible rapidity. Presently the electric bolt struck the poor man who was reading the letter, as well as an unfortunate companion at his side, killing both on the spot. Everybody in the house at the time was more or less injured, and one woman remained insensible for some hours. A dog lying at the kitchen fire was torn to pieces by the same stroke of lightning, and the building itself bears evident marks of the visitation. The bodies of the two men did not present any external indications of having been struck by the lightning."

ANOTHER FATAL COLLAPSE ACCIDENT.—A shocking accident, attended by loss of life, has occurred at the Penydarren Pit, South Wales. Two men, named Charles Daniel and Thomas Williams, were working about the colliery, when they went into the air-way in order to ascertain that all was safe for the men. They had not been in there long when Williams heard a sort of crackling and rumbling noise, which convinced him that some of the earthwork was about to give way. He called to Daniel, but it is supposed that his warning was not heard, as Daniel made no attempt to escape. Almost immediately a part of the roof fell down, and a huge stone, which weighed 13 cwt. or more, fell upon and buried poor Daniel underneath it, and of course killed him on the spot, crushing his body in a shocking manner. Williams, who was standing away as the stone fell, was also struck by it, and received a compound fracture of his right thigh, but it is hoped he may recover.

MOTOR TURNOUTS AT MANCHESTER.—At Manchester a serious misunderstanding between bricklayers' labourers has led to violence, and very nearly to loss of life. Dissatisfied with the terms given them by the bricklayers, part of the men struck work, but have found a considerable number of their workmen unwilling to follow their example. In the early part of the week they commenced the system called "picketing" the "knobsticks," and a master named Cox was followed to and from his work, and repeatedly threatened with violence. The police interfered and protected him in the daytime, on Thursday night some men assembled before his house, and threw two boxes filled with explosive materials up to the window of the bedroom where his wife slept. One of them exploded like a shell. Fortunately, the boxes struck the window-frame and fell back into the street, after breaking four panes of glass. The miscreants escaped. On Friday the turnouts proceeded to the works, upwards of 100 strong, to a large building erected at Pimhill Brow, where they attacked the masons and labourers at work, beating three so severely that they had to be removed to the infirmary, whilst several others, carried to the infirmary, lie in a dangerous state. Many of the workmen fled through a canal to escape the bricks which flew about their heads.

AN IRISH ACCIDENT.—A young Irishman, residing in Bristol, while romping with some of his countrywomen and neighbours, ran after a buxom girl, who was engaged in sempstress work, and gave her a hug in sport; but, poor fellow, it cost him anything but sport to him, for, as he pressed her to his bosom, it turned out that he had a fatal embrace, as a needle, which she had in the breast of her gown, entered his heart, and broke off short, leaving nearly three parts of an inch of the steel in the muscles. He instantly felt sick and faint, and was taken to the infirmary, when it was determined to make an effort to extract the broken needle, as, should it remain where it was, death must quickly ensue from inflammation of the heart. The surgeon, accordingly, cut through the outer flesh, and laying laid bare the surface of the heart, discovered a small portion of the steel fragment protruding; and with a forceps he drew it out. The delicate operation was most successful; but as much inflammation had set in before the needle could be extracted, it is still very doubtful whether his life will be saved. As, however, a most uncommon operation, as well as a singular accident, and shows that even the heart itself may sustain a sharp wound without death immediately following.

MURKIN IN POLAND.—In consequence of the extension of the murkain among cattle in Poland, a sanitary committee of twelve members, one of whom is a veterinary surgeon of eminence, has been appointed to each of the five governments. They are ordered to adopt the most active measures to investigate causes, and apply remedies. All animals exhibiting symptoms of disease are to be slaughtered immediately, and the carcasses deeply buried, with quick lime, the government taking upon itself the expense of indemnifying owners, at a proper valuation, but at the same time subjects all persons disobeying the sanitary regulations of the committee to severe penalties.

AUSTRIAN CRUELTY.—A day or two since (says a Vienna correspondent) I chanced to see in the street the Countess Louis Bathyni, the widow of the Hungarian minister, who was put to death some years since at Pesth, and it occurred to me to inquire whether she had ever been paid her jointure by the Austrian Government, which, as you will probably recollect, confiscated the estates of her husband. To my astonishment, the reply to my question was, that she had never received a farthing, and that the widows and wives of the other political offenders are in exactly the same position.

KELI'S OF THE FRANKLIN EXPEDITION.—A box has been received at the office of the American European Express Company, New York, which contains a portion (perhaps all) of the reliefs of the unfortunate expedition of Sir John Franklin.—One piece snow shoe, marked Mr. Stanley (the name is cut into the wood with a penknife); one piece of cane, apparently bamboo; one piece of wood, part of a boat with copper binding; one piece of wood, part of a boat, with the word "Erebus" cut into it; two pieces bunting; one piece cordage; one piece leather, the inside of a backgammon board; one piece metal, the graduated part of a barometer; one piece ivory, apparently part of a mathematical instrument. This box was received from the Hudson's Bay House, Lachine, to be forwarded to the Hudson's Bay House, in London.

INUNDATIONS IN FRANCE.—The central departments of France have in many places been laid completely under water. At Lyons, the Saône rose three feet in twenty-four hours, and the Rhône six feet. The dyke of the Tête d'Or, near the Grand Camp, gave way, and the water covered the east plains with vast inundation. The towns were sounded in all the surrounding villages. Many persons were surprised in their sleep, and could only save themselves, half-dressed, by wading through the water, leaving their property at the mercy of the flood. They were compelled to remain in their houses, and wait until assistance could be brought to them. The establishment of the Petites Sœurs des Pauvres was inundated, and it was found necessary to remove all its inmates to the Hotel-Dieu in wagons. The directors of the Maison du Saint-Enfant-Jésus brought all their children, one by one, on their backs, and the sick were laid on mattresses, and placed on rafts hastily made for the purpose, and thus carried to a place of safety. Cries and moans were heard in every direction, women seeking their husbands and their children, and the children calling for their mothers. At the Brotteaux several houses were washed down before the inhabitants could be got out. At Charpentier, a man, his wife, and their child were buried beneath the ruins of their house. A boat, with several persons who had been saved from a house, upset and all were drowned. The Rhône is constantly bringing down furniture, cattle, and sheep. Many small houses built of frame-work and brick, have been washed away bodily from their foundations at the Brotteaux, and are seen floating about with the current. The Grande Rue de l'Oratoire has the appearance of a regular river. The above details relate almost entirely to the Rhône. Accounts from Valence state that although the rest of the Rhône has not completely stopped, it does not advance as rapidly as before. All the Plaine des Granges presents the appearance of an immense lake. The river is constantly seen bringing down trees which have been torn up by the roots, cattle, furniture, and a quantity of other articles.

## Imperial Parliament.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

FRIDAY, MAY 30.

## PEERS' APPELLATE JURISDICTION BILL—THE WENSLEYDALE PEERAGE.

The Lord CHANCELLOR, in moving the second reading of the Peers' Appellate Jurisdiction Bill, stated the reason why the measure is introduced, and described its provisions. The committee of inquiry appointed after the long discussion of the Wensleydale Peerage, had reported that it would not be desirable to transfer the jurisdiction of the House to any other tribunal; but that in the manner in which the judicial business of the House was conducted some improvement was required. Practically, the Court of Appeal consisted only of the law lords; and as there were no means of compelling their attendance, it happened that causes were heard by three, by two, or even by one, the Lord Chancellor alone. This had been found unsatisfactory, and it was proposed by the bill that the Crown should call to the House of Lords, as peers for life, two judges who had sat on the bench five years, to assist the Chancellor in hearing appeals. These peers for life are to be called "deputy-speakers," with salaries equal to those of the judges of the courts of common law. The bill also enables sittings in appeal to be held during prorogation. The term of years entitling the pension was inclusive of the time the deputy-speakers might have presided in an inferior court.

EARL GREY, though he did not object to the appointment of the deputy-speakers, thought the office ought to have been given to ex-Chancellors. Though not stated in the report, that was the understanding of the committee. He objected to the manner in which the question of peerages for life had been dealt with by this bill. In its decision on the Wensleydale peerage, the House had assumed a power and authority which did not belong to it by the law and constitution of the country; the bill affirmed the propriety of that decision of the House. He also thought, as the bill restrained the prerogative of the Crown, that they could not pass it without the previous assent of the Sovereign.

Lord CAMPBELL thoroughly approved the bill; he was glad it went as far as it did, and that it went no further. Instead of limiting the power of the Crown, it extended it. The House, the proper tribunal, had decided that the Crown had not the power of creating peerages for life with the right of sitting and voting with the Peers. This bill gave that power, with suitable limitations, for a distinctly possessed. The addition of life peerages proposed by the bill was absolutely essential to the preservation of the appellate jurisdiction of the House; but that, he saw no necessity to extend the principle.

EARL FITZWILLIAM was surprised Lord Campbell should declare that a resolution of the House passed after one debate was the law of the land. Neither had he ever expected to hear from Lord Campbell that the House could enlarge the Royal prerogative. He thought the House throughout the proceedings on the Wensleydale case had erected itself into a high court of judicature, to decide what was the power of the Sovereign. In committee he should propose to insert words that would reserve the full rights of the Crown.

Lord CAMPBELL explained that he did not rely on a resolution of the House alone; by all authorities the Peers were considered the sole judges of the right to sit under the patent, and it must be supposed they did their duty honestly.

After some further discussion, the bill was read a second time, several suggested amendments being reserved for consideration of committee.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

## CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY BILL.

MR. BOUVIER, in moving that the House resolve itself into a committee upon the Cambridge University Bill, explained the grounds upon which he brought forward the measure. There could be no dispute, he observed, since the passing of the Oxford Act, as to the right of Parliament to interfere; the only question was as to the necessity of interference, and he proposed to show that such necessity existed. His main proposition was, that the University and Colleges of Cambridge possessed vast revenues and resources to be devoted to a particular purpose—namely, education, and that these revenues and resources were not turned to the best account. The amount of education in the University was nothing like what it ought to be; the institution was a machine which did not do the work it ought to do. Then, with respect to the nature and quality of the education, he contended that it did not confer those decided advantages which induced persons who could afford it to send their sons to Cambridge. If the University had enjoyed free action, the blame of these deficiencies would rest with it; but he did not blame the University, which, he admitted, had made great efforts to remedy them. The University was troubled, he said, with a most antiquated and confined constitution, the nature of which he explained, and then shortly detailed the changes proposed by the bill with reference to the University and the colleges. In regard to the former, it got rid of the Caput, and substituted a Council, endowed to a great extent with the chief functions of the University, and the power of amending its constitution and laws; and it authorised the election of Oxford, the appointment of a parliamentary commission.

MR. WALPOLE complained of the disparaging tone in which Mr. Bouvier had spoken of the University of Cambridge, at the same time that he had acknowledged the improvements introduced by its authorities. He adverted to some of these improvements and encouragements offered to students, and asked why it should not be left to the University to carry them on—whether there was any reason to suppose that a bill of this description would be more likely to provide the means of a more extended education than the University herself. He pronounced a warm encomium upon the high character of the University, enumerating the many distinguished men, living as well as dead, in every branch of science and learning—divines, lawyers, statesmen, philosophers, and poets—whom, educated by herself, she had given to the world.

After some remarks by Mr. Pollard-Urqhart, Mr. Heywood, and Mr. J. Philimore, the House went into committee upon the bill.

The House adjourned till Monday.

## MONDAY, JUNE 2.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

## SIGNALS AT SEA.

LORD DUNCANNON asked if the Government intended by any measure to compel coasting vessels, or vessels sailing in the Channel by night, to exhibit lights, and whether the Admiralty had under consideration any new plan of night signals for sailing ships.

Lord STANLEY of ALDERLEY stated that the whole subject was under consideration by the Admiralty.

The Earl of HARDWICKE doubted the expediency of compelling both ships and steamers to observe the same regulations.

On the motion of the Duke of Argyll, the Reformatory Schools (Scotland) Bill was read a second time.

The report of amendments of the Peace Preservation (Ireland) Bill was received; the National Gallery Bill went through Committee; the Fire Insurances Bill was read a third time, and the House then adjourned.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

## THE PRINCIPALITIES.

In reply to an inquiry by Mr. Roebeck,

Lord PALMERSTON said it had been decided by the Congress of Paris that Commissioners should be appointed by the Turkish Government and by the Governments of England and France to go to Moldavia and Wallachia, and place themselves in communication with Divans to be convened by the Porte with the view of considering a form of government for the Principalities: it being reserved to each Government to give to its Commissioners such instructions as it thought proper. The Commissioners would not proceed to execute their functions until the Divans were constituted, and, as this would not be until the provinces were evacuated by the Austrian troops, and the Russian troops had retreated from that portion of Bessarabia ceded to Turkey, a certain delay must take place.

## THE STATE OF GREECE.

On the order for going into a Committee of Supply, MR. JAMES M'GREGOR, pursuant to notice, submitted some observations upon the state of Greece. He dwelt upon its disorganised condition, and inquired what was to be the result of the military occupation of the Piræus; and whether the Government of Greece, which had been described as most corrupt, was to be supported. He hoped, he said, to elicit from Lord Palmerston an expression of the future policy of the British Government towards that of Greece.

Lord PALMERSTON said, with respect to the conduct generally of the Government of Greece, he had nothing to add to the opinions expressed by him on former occasion. The Piræus had been occupied by French and British troops in consequence of measures of aggression, either instigated or permitted by the Government of Greece, against the Turkish territories, and during that occupation those aggressions had ceased. He wished he could say that it had produced any improvement either in the system of government, or the internal condition of the country; but what was termed brigandage—the carrying off persons for ransom—pillage, and highway robbery, continued to a great extent. The real fact was, he observed, that the Government and Court party were in conflict with the representative system. The three allied Powers, England, France, and Russia, had issued a proclamation promising to the Greeks a representative Government, which was delayed until the majority of the King, who, when called upon to fulfil his engagement, evaded it, until it was extorted from him by an insurrection; and from that time to this, there had been a perpetual endeavour to get rid of the constitutional government by corrupt and indirect means, the money which should have been appropriated to the discharge of the debt having been applied to corrupt the electors and the elected, so as to make the Greek Parliament a mere shadow of what it should be. As the guarantee of the debt was common to the three Powers, it had been held that no one Power was entitled to enforce its own claim. It would not be possible, he added, to anticipate the future policy of England and France with respect to Greece.

MR. MILNES believed that there was a fair prospect that the system of brigandage would be put an end to.

The subject then dropped, and the House went into committee of supply upon the remaining Civil Service Estimates.

The vote of £1,911 for the charges of the Statute Law Commission, gave occasion to a long discussion, in which the constitution of the Commission, its proceedings, and the whole scheme of revising and consolidating the written law, underwent review.

## PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

The debate on the second reading of the Parochial Schools (Scotland) Bill, adjourned on the 25th of April, was resumed by

Sir J. PERCUSSON, who supported the measure, and contended that the objections which had been urged against it were founded upon a misapprehension of its nature and tendency.

Mr. C. BRUCE pointed out some features in the bill which he considered inadvertent, but declined to divide the House on the present stage of the measure.

Mr. A. BLACK described the parochial school system of Scotland, and explained the reason which induced him to anticipate a beneficial result from the application of the bill now before the House.

Mr. BLACKBURN opposed the bill, of which Mr. MACKIE expressed a qualified approval.

The LORD ADVOCATE briefly replied to the objections, and detailed the objects which he sought to accomplish in the measure; and after some further conversation, the bill was then read a second time.

The Joint-stock Companies Bill was read a third time, and passed.

## TUESDAY, JUNE 3.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

## APPENDATE JURISDICTION BILL.

On the motion for going into committee, on the Appellate Jurisdiction (House of Lords) Bill,

The Earl of ABERDEEN complained of the omission in the measure of any special provision for the determination of Scotch Appeals. The legal Peers who were to be appointed for the performance of the judicial functions appertaining to that House might be, and probably would be, utterly unversed in questions of Scotch law, and would nevertheless be called upon to decide cases referred from the northern tribunals.

The Earl of DURBY contended that the scheme, as recommended by the report of the commissioners, contained every essential requisite for adjudication upon appeals from every section of the United Kingdom. The people of Scotland, he was persuaded, were averse to any change in the system by which appeals from their own courts were decided by the House of Lords.

The report of the commissioners and the principles on which the bill was founded were also defended by Lord St. Leonards and the Duke of Argyll.

The Earl of Wicklow, Lord Campbell, the Marquis of Lansdowne, Earl Fitzwilliam, and other peers having spoken,

Earl GRANVILLE explained the motives which had prompted the Government to introduce the measure. Wishing to render the House more fit to exercise its appellate jurisdiction, her Majesty's Ministers had originally proposed to create Baron Wensleydale a peer for life; believing, as they still believed, that the power of creating peerages clearly belonged to the Royal prerogative. As that question, however, became a subject for urgent debate, and in the presence of a threatened collision between the Crown and the House of Peers, the Government had acceded to the proposition for referring the whole matter to a select committee, and now, upon the report of that committee, adopted the present bill, as presenting an acceptable compromise of the constitutional question, while securing the chief objects they had in view, by improving the judicial qualifications of the Upper House, and affording the means by which talent would be admitted and poverty excluded from its precincts.

The bill then passed through committee.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Commons did not make a house on Tuesday.

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

## TENANT RIGHT (IRELAND) BILL.

MR. MOORE, in moving the second reading of this bill, said it was one of a most important character, and one affecting the interest of five-sixths of the people of Ireland.

On the Hon. Member resuming his seat, there were loud cries of "Agreed," "Divide," "No, no," and ultimately the House divided, when there appeared—For the motion, 88; against it, 59; majority for the motion, 29.

The announcement was received with loud cheers from the Irish Members.

The Scientific and Literary Societies Bill, after some discussion, went through committee pro forma—to be committed that day forthwith.

## DISINTEREST MARRIAGES BILL.

The House went into committee on this bill, and after a considerable amount of discussion, and one division, the bill, with some amendments, was agreed to—one or two rider clauses, to be moved by Mr. Bowyer, being left over to be proposed at a future stage.

On the motion for going into committee on the Joint Stock Banks Bill,

Mr. VANCE resumed the adjourned debate on the amendment that the bill be read a second time that day six months, but, as a quarter to six o'clock, the Hon. Member was informed the debate must be adjourned.

The Excise Bill then passed through committee, and the House adjourned.

## THURSDAY, JUNE 5.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

## MR. CRAMPTON'S DEPARTURE.

The Earl of HARDWICKE inquired whether the Government had received information that Mr. Crampton, British Minister at Washington, had been dismissed.

Earl GRANVILLE stated that the event had not been officially announced, but was reported upon very trustworthy authority.

## STATE OF ITALY.

The Marquis of CLANRICARDE asked if the Earl of Clarendon could communicate to the House the notes of the Sardinian Envoy of the 22nd of March and 16th of April, presented to the Congress of Paris, with the answers returned to them.

The Earl of CLARENDON apologised for not having communicated these documents sooner, but thought it was of little importance, as they had already appeared in the newspapers. With respect to the answers, the French and English Governments agreed that, the question having been fully discussed at the Congress, it was not necessary to send any answer to them. But it had since appeared that the Sardinian Government wished to have some written record of the arguments, and he had no hesitation in repeating, in the name of her Majesty's Government, what he had said at Paris. That answer he had now laid on the table. Before Parliament separated, the affairs of Italy would, no doubt, be discussed; but all he could state at present was that he believed both France and Austria were sincere in their desire to withdraw their troops from the port of Italy occupied by them, and that they were now preparing to do so.

The Peace Preservation (Ireland) Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Appellate Jurisdiction House of Lords Bill was reported as amended in committee, and the amendments agreed to after some discussion.

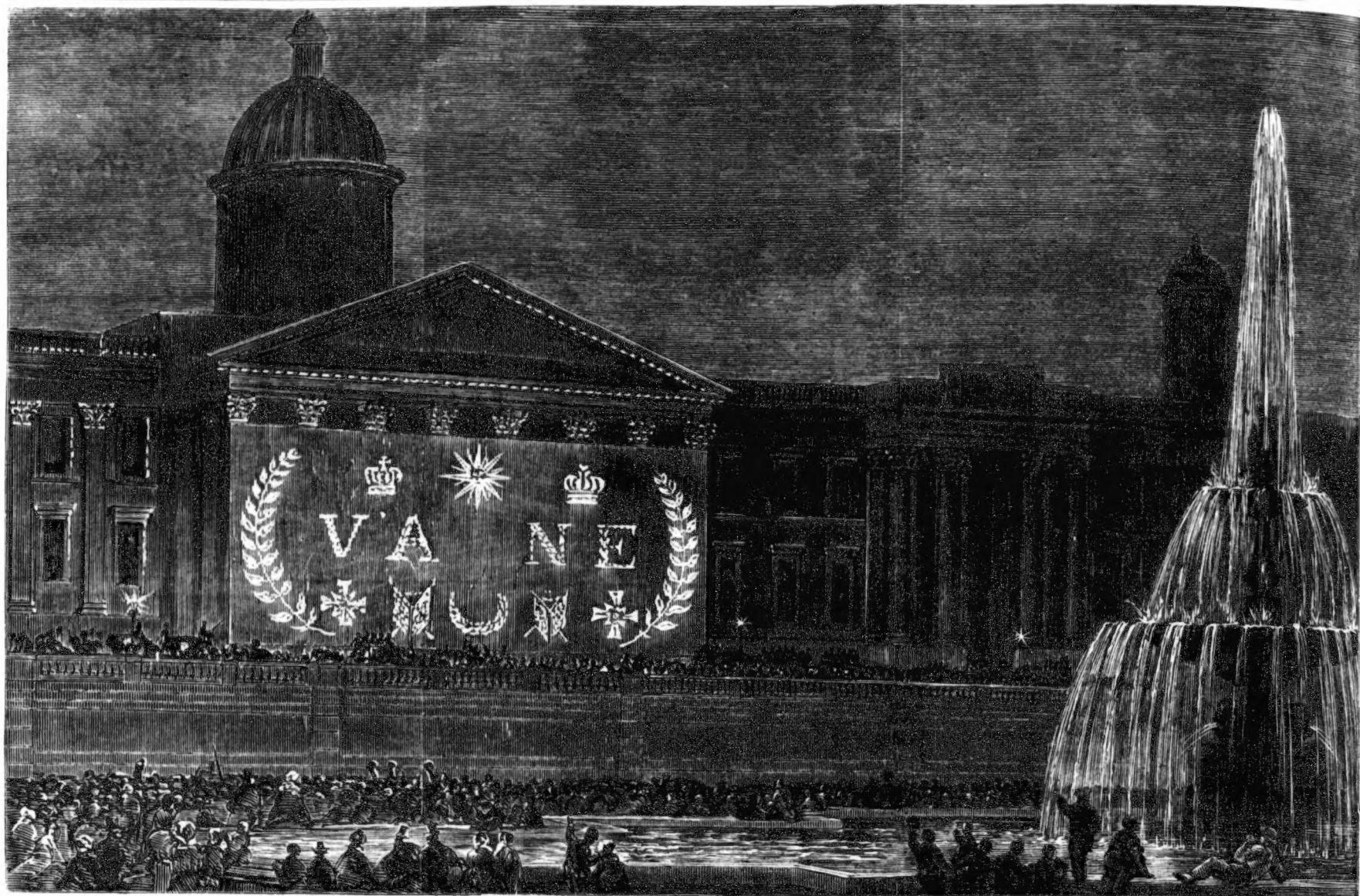
## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

## MR. CRAMPTON'S DEPARTURE.

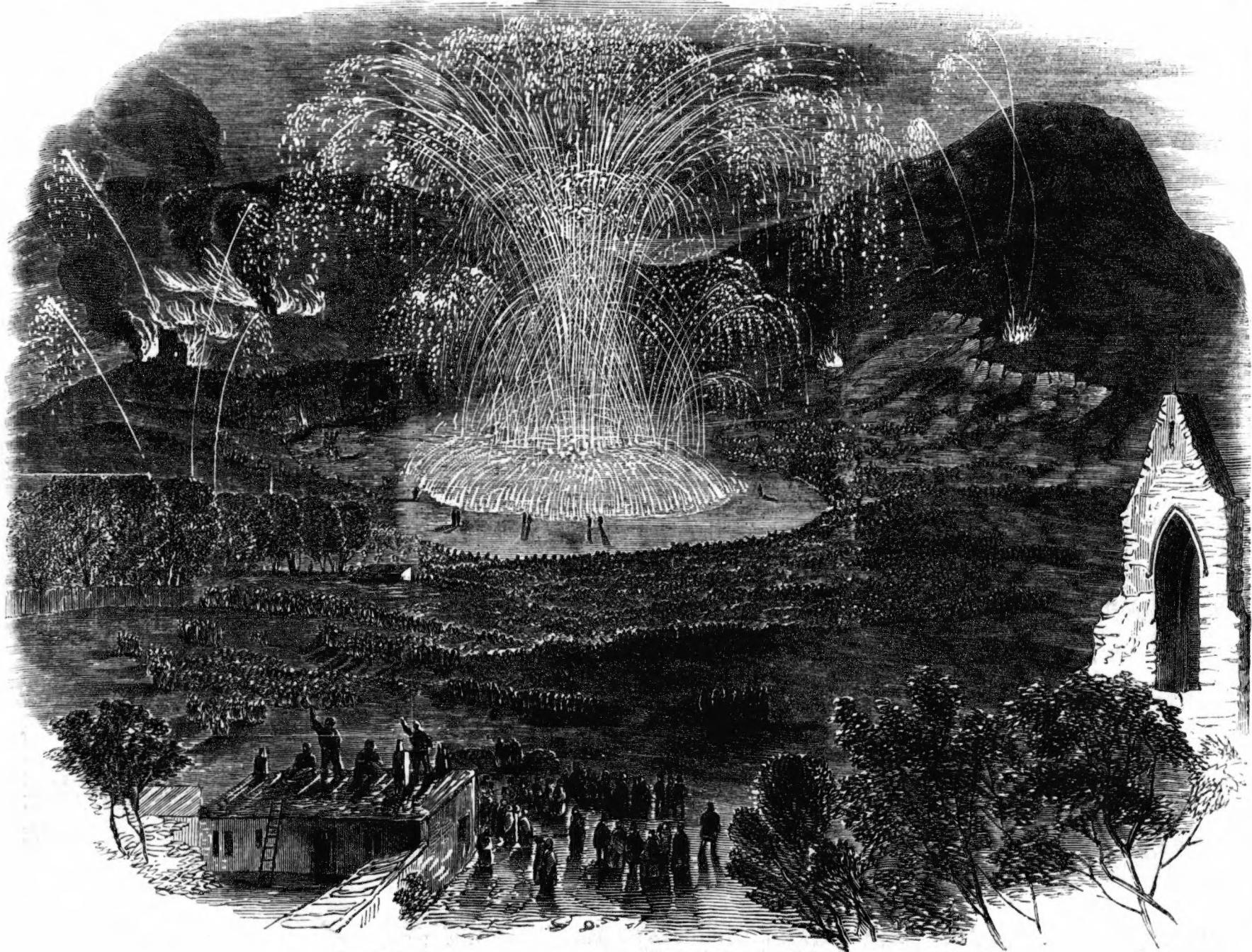
Replying to Mr. Disraeli, Lord PALMERSTON said that intelligence had been indirectly received communicating the fact that Mr. Crampton had been ordered by the United States Government to leave their territory, but no official notification of the fact had as yet arrived.

## EDUCATION IN THE ARMY.

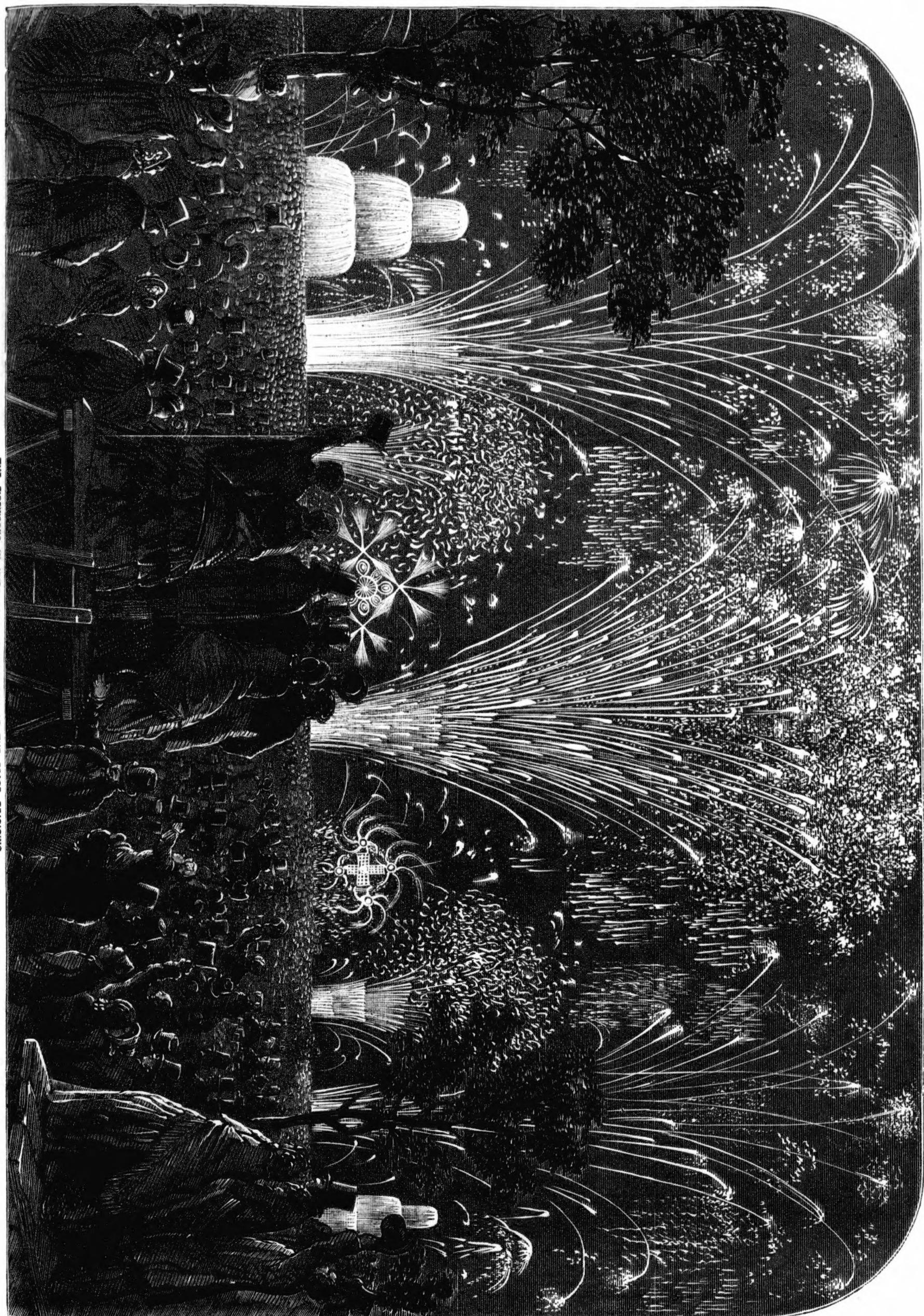
On the motion for going into committee of supply, Mr. S. HERBERT offered some prolonged remarks upon the importance of providing for the instruction and education of military officers. He argued that, as it was not accord



THE ILLUMINATION OF THE NATIONAL GALLERY.



DISPLAY OF FIREWORKS ON ARTHUR'S SEAT, EDINBURGH.—(SKETCHED FROM CROFT-AN-EIGH HOUSE.)



THE FIREWORKS IN HYDE PARK, ON THE DAY OF THE PEACE REJOICING.

## THE CELEBRATION OF PEACE.

THURSDAY of last week was a memorable Thursday. Public rejoicings were to be held; and for the successful accomplishment of public rejoicings two conditions are necessary: first, fine weather; and secondly, good management and good taste. To expect either one or the other in any magnificent degree in England, never enters the mind of an Englishman; but on this occasion, the British climate and the British Executive blessed us at least with the happy mean. The day was dull and sunless throughout. Clouds heavy with rain hung over the city, threatening to deliver their charge as soon as darkness fell, and threw a veil over proceedings very proper to November or April—pluvial months!—but not at all according to the traditions of smiling May. This on the one hand. On the other, our public buildings were covered with transparencies and painted hoardings not at all remarkable for splendour of execution or fertility of design; and these were our prospects on the evening of Thursday, May 29.

But there is an enterprising British public, and there are tens of thousands of people only too happy to avail themselves of a little cheap pleasure. The enterprising British public, then, notwithstanding the chances of the weather, had prepared to emblazon every neighbourhood with crowns, and stars, and wreaths, and words of fire. Not only was this so in the "leading thoroughfares," but you had only to lose your way down a Holborn alley, to behold that the spark of patriotism may glow in the lowest bosom, and the lamp of rejoicing burn in the darkest court. And the tens of thousands poured into the streets, spite of wind and weather, till the thoroughfares of London were filled with the largest and best-behaved crowd ever assembled in Europe. It came smiling on foot, chirruping in vans, and most decorous in spring carts. Foot passengers, vans, and carts, hundreds of thousands strong, jostled in and out among the aristocrats' carriages, calm as the flukes, and with all the dignified reticence of the carriages themselves. All this was delightful to see—cannon booming from Horse Guards and Tower, and church bells hanging and "ringing" all the while.

The evening came on, the crowds came on, in black masses; and the rain didn't. On the contrary, the weather became almost what it should be for a pyrotechnic display. True, it was exceedingly cold; true, it was rather damp—the turf in the parks, where thousands had to stand for hours, being positively wet; true, that what wind blew was a bitter wind; but the atmosphere was clear though starless, and, on the whole, we are content with the British climate on this occasion. And as to the British Executive, it was found, when the public buildings were all lit up, and the fireworks in the various parks began to play, that they had provided very well for the entertainment of the people.

First, as to the display in

## THE GREEN PARK.

The official announcement set forth that the exhibition would begin at half-past nine, but long before that hour an immense crowd had assembled. During the whole day, indeed, it had been dotted with numerous groups of holiday-makers, but as the evening advanced the numbers increased, and soon the space of ground from which the fireworks were to be displayed was surrounded by dark belt of human forms, like a ploughed field encircled by a plantation of firs. Each minute added to the moving throng. Along every avenue leading to the park a living stream ceaselessly flowed with rapidly-increasing strength and velocity, and appeared powerful enough to bear down everything before it. If there had been no more than the usual means of ingress, serious accidents could scarcely have been avoided, but happily there had been opened six new entrances, and therefore not a single mishap occurred. Yet many thousands entered the park in an incredibly short space of time. Deepening and thickening with wonderful rapidity, the huge mass extended itself over the soft carpet beneath its feet, and even took possession of the trees. The effect upon the park was like that produced by the plague of locusts. The green patches of turf on which the eye rested at one moment were invisible the next; and for some time before the commencement of the fireworks not a blade of grass was to be seen. An immense multitude of human beings stretched far away on every hand, and was so closely compacted together, especially towards the centre of attraction, that one might have walked on the heads and shoulders of the people with almost as firm and steady a tread as if his foot pressed the solid ground. Between 200,000 and 300,000 people were assembled here. Nor was that all. The large open space in front of Buckingham Palace, the Mall, Constitution Hill, and every point from which the fireworks could be seen, were crowded with spectators. Numerous parties of ladies and gentlemen, free from the crush and pressure below, occupied the balconies and roofs of Stafford House and the neighbouring mansions, while hundreds clung like bees to the projections of the houses in Piccadilly.

A few minutes before the commencement of the fireworks the Queen, Prince Albert, the members of the Royal family, Prince William of Prussia, and other persons of rank, took their seats in pavilion erected at the north end of Buckingham Palace, facing the park. Her Majesty was received with loud demonstrations of loyalty and enthusiasm. The Royal party had an admirable view of the fireworks, and seemed to participate in the admiration which they excited.

Punctually at the appointed hour the entertainments began with a series of illuminations and discharge of maroons. The fires were white, red, green, and yellow, and the effect was something like that which would be produced by a chemical manufactory in flames. For upwards of two hours the air above the park and for some distance around was luminous with the blaze of suns, stars, comets, and streamers—the flight of rockets, shells, and Roman candles—the descent of meteors, parachutes, and showers of pearl, silver, and golden rain. Shining serpents and fireflies chased each other through a sea of light, resting on a bed of upturned human faces, and ingenious contrivances with hard technical names flamed against and athwart the sky in every variety of movement. The eye was dazzled with the intensity of the light, the brilliancy of the colours, and the complication of lines and curves described by the flying rockets; while the ear in turn was assailed by the whizzing of wheels and revolving stars, the bursting of shells, and the discharging of mines and batteries. The programme was a rather long one, consisting of no fewer than twenty-four "divisions," and was not exhausted till near midnight. It comprised almost everything that is either new, curious, or beautiful in pyrotechny. Some of the fixed pieces were remarkably elegant. The stars, loops, and crosses elicited the most enthusiastic expressions of delight, and, indeed, nothing could have been finer. Those rockets which, exploding in the air, threw out clusters of coloured stars, were also much admired; while loud cheering arose from all sides when a number of shells, discharged together, burst far above the heads of the spectators, changing into graceful and glittering forms, which charmed the eye and filled the air with light. Cascades, fountains, and trees were represented with wonderful exactness: and perhaps one of the most beautiful features of the display was the formation in the air of sheaves of yellow corn. But the great triumph of the night was that which concluded the exhibition. It consisted of five fixed pieces, all of the most ingenious and elaborate construction, with the words "God save the Queen" illuminated in the centre. At the same time there was a grand discharge of Roman candles, batteries of pearl streamers, tourbillons, and rockets in red, green, blue, and yellow. The effect was magnificent, almost magical; and when, in addition to the above, no fewer than 10,000 rockets were shot into the air, the scene was such as can be witnessed only once in a lifetime. The immense crowd dispersed in as quiet and orderly a manner as it had assembled. Little more than an hour sufficed to empty the park.

## HYDE PARK.

The enclosures for the exhibition in Hyde Park stood on the open space between the Serpentine and the Marble Arch; the frames for the fixed pieces were ranged along the two sides of a triangle, with the apex towards Grosvenor Gate. As early as seven o'clock an immense number of persons had collected. Several boys climbed up in trees, near Park Lane, and after a time some of those below began playfully throwing sods of turf at them; the amusement soon became general, and lumps of earth were flying about in all directions. By the time these persons had got tired of this fun, it had become quite dark, and general attention was attracted to the houses along the sides of the park, which commenced to illuminate. The balconies of all the houses commanding the park were decorated, and seats had been erected on the roofs of several. About nine o'clock

Dudley House, the residence of Lord Ward, was lit; the mansion was one blaze of light, every outline of the building and of the verandahs was marked by a line of gas jets. The effect was very brilliant, and the crowd loudly applauded. About half-past nine a rocket gave the signal for the commencement of the exhibition. The first display was a brilliant illumination of white, red, and green fires, with a continuous discharge of maroons. This was followed by a discharge of rockets. The general display was as nearly as possible the same as that in the Green Park. It was divided, as had been announced, into several divisions. Each division commenced by a signal shell from the corner of the enclosure; this was followed by a shower of rockets, either coloured or parachute. Two fixed pieces exactly similar were then exhibited at the opposite ends of the enclosure, and the division ended with a discharge of shells. Each division also included a battery of streamers, or one of squibs or Roman candles. The rockets were magnificent. The colour varied in every discharge; some of them scattered stars of red, blue, and white; others, a shower of streamers or crackers; the shells were also varied; some scattered variegated stars; others, after rising to a great height, seemed to form into a species of incandescent "milky way," which dissolved in a shower of pearl rain. The fixed pieces were also of a very varied character—rocket wheels, Scotch stars, pointed stars, Maltese crosses, Brunswick stars, and every variety of wheel, cross, and star that pyrotechnic ingenuity could devise. The exhibition concluded with the display of some half-dozen fixed pieces and two cascades of fire. The grand discharge of rockets which was expected to have formed the conclusion, was given at a much earlier period. Nothing could be finer than the effect of this discharge; the whole sky was one mass of blazing stars, the tops of the trees were lit up, and the ladies on the houses beyond were distinctly visible. The bright green emerald, the pale sapphire, the gay amber, the pure topaz, the sweet-tinted amethyst, the rich garnet, the blue turquoise, the dark lapis lazuli, the rare jacinth, the elegant onyx, the delicate opal, the gaudy gold, and the brilliant diamond—all gay and glittering colours were there combined, presenting a dazzling profusion of such tints such as the eye could never tire to look upon. The persons who visited Hyde Park had an advantage over those in other localities; in addition to the display immediately before them, the rockets and shells from Primrose Hill and the Green Park were seen to great advantage; both continued for some time after they had ceased in Hyde Park. Not a policeman was seen in the park.

## VICTORIA PARK.

A large portion of the crowd at Victoria Park was early upon the ground. Long before there was any approach to darkness, the Park was thinly dotted with groups of both sexes, with a most undue proportion of children; about eight o'clock "singly" carts, stage wagons, and other similar plebeian vehicles, began to set down company in earnest, and by nine there was collected a compact crowd, of which it would be impossible to estimate the number. Although the evening was very dull, and not a little cold, and large numbers of persons were waiting for more than either two or three hours (there are some people who are always so anxious to be in good time that they are never satisfied except when half a day too soon), there was on the part of the crowd no manifestation of impatience or ill-humour. Some rigid economists there were who complained of the hardship which would result from the expense of the exhibition to men who had families of twelve children (it is, fortunately, but few who can sympathise with them), and some who thought that the money spent in skyrockets and tourbillons would have been better applied to increase the pensions of our wounded soldiers and sailors; but, generally speaking, the multitude seemed disposed to take the good the Government had given them, and to be content therewith.

The ground which had been selected for the exhibition of the fireworks was a large space at the eastern end of the park, and here preparations had been made to insure the safety of the spectators. Strong barriers of timber had been erected at a considerable distance from the spot at which the "fire machines" were placed, and a notice was extensively posted in the Park requesting that no one would approach within ten feet of these barriers. These barriers formed the limits round which the crowd collected, and, although towards the edges it was somewhat scattered, and consisted rather of groups than of dense masses, yet in their immediate vicinity it was very compact indeed. The group of which the outer portions of the crowd consisted extended quite to the gates of the park. The display commenced here at the same hour as in the other parks, and opened, as there, with the firing of a salute, which was immediately followed by the ascent of rockets, tourbillons, shells, and other aerial fireworks. The rockets rose higher, exploded more loudly, and sent forth brighter showers of various coloured stars than any that we remember to have seen, and the expressions of satisfaction and applause were unanimous and unbound. The explosions of the tourbillons and other shells reminded many of what they had heard or read of that terrible cannonade which drove Gortchakoff from his position, while the sharp and frequent reports from the squibs formed a not unapt representation of the discharge of those deadly rifles which waged war against the Russians from beneath the very faces of the Redan and the Malakoff.

After these followed the firing of some of the fixed pieces, the designs of which were quite novel and very beautiful, and all of which went off with perfect regularity. The fireworks which excited most admiration, were the rockets and shells which exploded with coloured stars, or with pearl and gold streamers. These were very fine indeed, especially the purple and green stars and the pearl rain. After continuing for an hour and a half the display concluded about eleven o'clock, with the firing of five fixed pieces and the discharge of numerous flights of rockets besides other aerial fireworks. The first four flights of rockets included blue, red, green, and yellow ones, the number discharged being fifty of each, and these were followed by several flights of ordinary skyrockets, numbering together no less than 10,000. As these flights were discharged in rapid succession, and the fiery serpents ascended high into the sky, the firmament seemed to be in a blaze, and it would have required no very vivid imagination to picture the air as the scene of a deadly combat between rival bands of fiends. After these rockets had fallen, and their last sparks were extinguished, the vivid light which they had thrown upon all surrounding objects was succeeded by a darkness all the more complete from its contrast with the previous illumination; and the immense crowd which had for some hours filled the park began to disperse. With so large a concourse of persons, this was a work of some time, but it was accomplished without much difficulty, and with no bad accidents.

## PRIMROSE HILL.

There was an immense concourse to witness the pyrotechnic display announced to take place upon Primrose Hill. The crown of the hill was reserved for the pyrotechnic exhibition, and, in order to secure the safety of the spectators, a strong barrier was erected at a distance of about 100 yards from the summit, intersecting the park or enclosure from the Albert Road to the Regent's Park Road. The persons assembled within the enclosure were mainly of the middle and lower classes, but there was a much larger collection of "roughs" than might have been anticipated. They did not, however, occasion any annoyance to the more respectable portion of the spectators; but, having secured early in the evening such positions as they deemed most favourable for viewing the fireworks, they amused themselves by singing in chorus "the Ratcatcher's Daughter," and other popular songs of the same class, and by "chaffing" one another.

Most of the houses facing the Park displayed illuminations, but of a very simple and unostentatious description.

The time appointed for the commencement of the display of fireworks was half-past nine o'clock, and just previously, the wind, which blew from the eastward, freshened into a gentle gale, threatening to mar very materially the effect of these specimens of pyrotechnic art, upon which so much labour had been expended. Fortunately, however, the wind subsided, and the exhibition took place under the most favourable circumstances, for scarcely a breath of air influenced the flight of the aerial fireworks, while the darkness of the sky added greatly to their effect.

We cannot say that the fireworks failed to give satisfaction, for the massive flights of rockets, streamers, and serpents, and the rich and brilliant colours displayed as they burst in mid-air, elicited universal admiration, but unquestionably a general feeling existed among the spectators that there was a want of variety in the exhibition. The fireworks here

were almost exclusively of the class termed "aerial;" there were no pieces, no huge stars, no devices which might afford some relief to uninterrupted shower of rockets and serpents. There was certainly an attempt to represent what we may venture to call, in our ignorance of pyrotechnic art, and as the technical term is not set down for us in programme, fiery fountains; but it was a failure, in consequence of smoke generated by the composition. We believe the prevalent idea with regard to the display, was accurately expressed by a person in the crowd, who said, "These fireworks are very grand, but they're very maliike." The exhibition seemed, however, on the whole, to be satisfactory to the spectators, who several times manifested their gratification cheering.

## THE ILLUMINATIONS.

The fireworks being "all over," the people poured out of the parks orderly masses to view the illuminations in a round tour home. It seemed the course of the majority, and it was proved by the fact that at the night had fairly passed, and the morning fairly dawned, the metropolis thoroughfares were still filled with sightseers. That was, indeed, one of the most remarkable features of the *fête*: to see at midnight a apparently interminable mass of people rolling quietly and most gaily humouredly along, their upturned faces lit up by the natural light of pleasure, and the artificial light blazing from either side the way, was to some eyes even more memorable than any discharge of any number of rockets. The illuminations were quite worth the midnight tour. In some of the thoroughfares, as in Regent Street, the Strand, Oxford Street, Cheshire, &c., almost every house was illuminated, in almost every instance well, and in some instances in a very costly and beautiful manner. East-end and west-end, there was the same profusion of glittering stars in burning crowns. The whole of the private houses of the nobility and gentry in the quarter of the town known as Belgravia, were, with very rare exceptions, more or less illuminated. Here the devices were remarkable for their simplicity and taste, being composed for the most part of stars sometimes accompanied by a garter, or the Royal initials, or of an elegant festoon executed in gas or variegated lamps. Now and then the word "Pax," exhibited in gas or oil, occurred to relieve the monotonous repetition of its English equivalent in other parts of the metropolis.

At the Russian Embassy, Chesham Place, the cornice of the ground-floor was marked out by jets of gas, surmounted by stars and a large crown, surrounded by a wreath. The front to Lyle Street had the cornice of the entrance-arch marked by jets of gas, and surmounted by a star; the whole containing many thousand jets of gas.

The residence of the Count de Persigny, the French Ambassador, at Albert Gate, was brilliantly illuminated by an elegant device executed in gas, over the entrance. It consisted of the initial letters "N. E." and "V. A." encircled with wreaths of laurel, and a star, with two clasped hands, indicative of friendship, in the centre; the whole being surmounted by an Imperial eagle, flanked on either side by the English and French crowns.

The Turkish Embassy was also illuminated on the most splendid scale. It was lighted up entirely by gas, a novel description of lamp being adopted to admit jets of gas instead of the dull burning process of oil. Around the (fifteen) windows in front of the house ran a bearing of variegated gas-lamps, red, green, and white. In the centre of the building were the star and crescent, brilliantly lighted, on a red ground. On the right were the initials "V.R." surmounted by a crown on a green ground; and on the left was the cypher of the Sultan, on a green ground, which beyond that of its being his signature, is understood to express his various Imperial titles. Along the coping, above the second storey, ran a continuous light of jets, reflected through small lamps of various colours. The balconies of the windows had transparencies attached to them, representing the arms of the different European Powers engaged in the late war. There was the representation of six urns over as many pilasters. From these imaginary urns issued tongues of red flame, which gave an outline to the whole picture, and brought forth with great vividness the white light of the gas. The attraction of this illumination was very great, thousands of persons coming miles out of their way to behold it.

The Austrian Embassy, being situated in a somewhat retired part of the Metropolis, may probably have felt itself exempted from the necessity of making any great display in the illumination. It, however, had a very handsome gas illustration of the Austrian arms, and the house was otherwise illuminated.

There was nothing in this part of the line, however, if anywhere, more splendid than the illumination of Dudley House, the residence of Lord Ward. The entire front of this mansion had been surrounded with gas pipes—the whole outline of the architecture of the building, including porch, string courses, and cornices, having been closely followed. The columns had been ornamented with spiral jets, and from the front of the edifice there burst forth no fewer than 20,000 jets of gas. The coat-of-arms at the top of the building was inserted in wreaths of laurel, and altogether a more dazzling display it is impossible to conceive. We were informed that the consumption of gas amounted to 2,000 feet a minute. There were also six flags of noble dimensions suspended from the roof. The mansions of the English Masters were all brilliantly lit, and a very beautiful effect was produced at Apsley House, where the words, "Long live the Queen," formed of gas in Roman letters, two feet six inches deep, were displayed along the portico, a distance of forty feet. The parapet of three sides of the mansion—the south, west, and north—was illuminated by flambeau-shaped jets, along the length of 230 feet. Pall Mall, region of Clubs, was all a blaze, too, with the brilliant devices exhibited over those buildings.

At the public buildings, however, most was expected, and the expectation was well fulfilled. It is true that at Somerset House (the entire front of which, facing the Strand, was covered with loyal and allegorical designs), suffered so much from the wind that not much more than half the lamps were alight at one time, but the other half looked exceedingly well, and nobody was to blame. The Horse Guards, the Admiralty, the War Office, the Ordnance Office, and Stationery Office, were all splendidly illuminated. The Home Office, Treasury, and Board of Trade, however, bore away the bell; the illumination extended the entire length of these buildings. Five banners were suspended from a continuous cable, each banner bearing a letter of the word "Peace," and the cable loops by which the banners were suspended formed medallions containing the initial letters of the different sovereigns in the alliance. At the extreme right and left of the composition were placed the letters "V." and "N.", encircled by a similar cable of laurel wreaths. The whole was in beautifully-coloured lamps. The National Gallery also looked exceedingly well. The flags of England, France, Turkey, and Sardinia, combined in the centre with a large star above and the crescent beneath, were here displayed. On the right were placed the letters "V. A.," surmounted by the French crown, and a star beneath the letters, the whole supported on each flank by laurel branches. This device was formed of coloured drops glittering like jewels when lighted with gas.

The sister edifice (as we suppose we may be allowed to term the British Museum) also came out in force. The external railings of the ornamental fence was brilliantly illuminated with gas, flames of fire issuing from a large number of candelabra, and from urns on the entrance gates. The four large stone pedestals were surmounted by double rows of brilliant jets. This had a very imposing effect.

In the City, much the same style of decoration as prevailed in the Government edifices, was exhibited at the Royal Exchange, the Custom-House, Guildhall, the Bank, &c., and we must be pardoned if we say no more of them. It is not necessary, and might be tedious.

To conclude, then, nobody can deny that London, and England too, did herself credit on the occasion. The whole population turned out, and submitted to inspection, and showed themselves to advantage. There was difference enough—to great difference, perhaps—of classes. But, at all events, there were no dormant volcanoes, no smouldering fires, no great lurking disease, no angry interchange of frowns and scowls, no looks of defiance on foreign masters, or timid glance at the agents of despotism. Here was a reunion of classes, in which the preservative of peace and good order was left to natural feeling—as the event proved, with success. All joined in the festivity, for one reason or another; if for no other, because they saw that everybody else was well pleased.

A rumour prevailed on Friday morning (the 30th), to the effect that

## ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

five fatal cases of accident occurred during the fireworks, but that was countermanded by authority. It is much to be regretted, however, that a lad, named George Smart, has died from a severe lacerated scalp-wound occasioned by the falling of a rocket-stick while standing in the Green Park; and that the following cases of serious injury occurred:—Patrick Burke, a smashed toe; John Cassell, total blindness by the falling of a rocket-stick; G. Wilding, blindness of the right eye, which, it is feared, will affect the left; Sarah Fenn, blindness of the right eye, and the left slightly injured; Augustus Long, run over by a carriage in Piccadilly, and seriously injured. Some other cases of injury to the eye happened. Alfred Butler, 35, E., was run over by a cab while on duty, and sustained a severe fracture of the thigh. It is impossible, unfortunately, to have rockets without sticks; and it is wonderful that so many thousands of these fireworks should have been discharged with so small an amount of personal injury.

## SCOTLAND, IRELAND, AND THE PROVINCES.

No locality could have been better for the purposes of pyrotechnic display than that selected at Edinburgh. On the one hand, where stretched away upwards the sloping back of Salisbury Crags, till it met the sheer precipice which faces the Old Town, thousands on thousands of spectators were thronged. In small stationary groups, in dense masses, in hundreds of separate wandering clusters and figures, the crowd which made this slope seem alive presented itself to the eye. Away, again, to the extreme left, the appearance presented was even more extraordinary. The cliff which rises abruptly in the middle of the valley, and overhangs St. Anthony's Well, was crowded with a clustering mass of spectators, so dense that they appeared to overhang the very verge. Beyond this again, and around the ruins of the Chapel, another swarm of sightseers was seen, indistinct and shadowy, beneath the precipice which towered behind. Right opposite to the spectator lay the slope on which the fiery glories of the evening were to be shown—an odd enough looking part of the spectacle, with skeleton forms of strange device, and curious shaped frames stretching out their arms like a spectre forest; while far behind, shutting in the view, rose the dim crown of Arthur's Seat, from which the last flush of the faint sunlight had vanished, leaving it gray and lone.

Such was the spectacle which was seen by those in the Queen's Park; it was indeed a spectacle not soon to be forgotten by the unreckoned thousands who saw it. And when they turned to look behind in the direction of the Calton Hill, the Terraces, and High School, the scene which met their eyes was hardly less striking and wonderful. The outline of the Calton Hill, and every prominent position on its south-eastern side, presented one mass of those who were content to view the fireworks afar off. Of the fireworks themselves—of the display of pyrotechny which was meant to be national, and which drew thousands from all parts of the kingdom to witness it—we are sorry that we cannot speak favourably—at any rate, if we are to represent the general feeling. The fireworks were the work of a London artist, and cost £600—certainly not a large sum in comparison of the expense incurred for the exhibition in London; but judging from very current remarks, the illumination of the Salisbury Crags, for half the money, would have had a far grander effect, and been much more satisfactory to the bulk of the people. The chief complaint was, that there was little variety; and that the affair was not well-timed nor well-managed.

The conclusion of peace was celebrated in Glasgow by a general suspension of business. The military performed evolutions, and fired a *feu de joie* on the Green, in presence of an immense mass of spectators. About 20,000 people enjoyed holiday excursions by steamers and rail. The magistrates dined in honour of the occasion. In the evening there was immense firing of rockets and squibs, but no illumination.

At Dublin the day was to all intents a general holiday, and all classes seemed resolved to make the most of it. The review in the Park, which opened the amusements, drew together a miscellaneous assemblage, which, as far as numbers counted, was but little, if anything, short of the mighty throng which was attracted by the presence of Her Majesty at the grand review which took place during her first visit to Ireland. For four hours the streets of Dublin were nearly cleared, only, however, to be again rendered impassable by the return tide of the population at the conclusion of the military pageant.

The evening and night was as fine as the forenoon. The illuminations and display of fireworks were magnificent. The crowds at all the leading points of attraction were tremendous. The great public buildings presented a dazzling appearance, the effect being increased by a night of rare fitness even at this season.

In all the great provincial towns—at Liverpool, Bristol, Manchester, &c.—there was a general holiday, general illumination, and general rejoicing. The most remarkable celebration we have heard of was at Exeter, where a public dinner was given in the market place to ten thousand persons! exclusive of four thousand children, regaled with buns and coffee later in the day. The statistics of this dinner are worth recording. The length of the tables was 3,500 yards. The quantity of beef and mutton, 10,000 lbs.; plum-pudding, 5,000 lbs.; best quality; bread, 9,850 loaves, each weighing 2 lb.; beer, 2,250 gallons.

## OBITUARY.

PATTISON, CAPT. J. R. G.—Capt. John Robert Graham Pattison, of the 2nd Regiment of Warwickshire Militia, died at Armagh, Ireland, on the 8th ult. He was the only son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel Alexander Hope Pattison, K.H., commander of the forces in the Bahamas. He was formerly captain in Her Majesty's 10th Regiment of Foot, in which he served all through the late war in India. He was present at the siege of Mooltan, the action of Soorjkoond, and the battles of Goojerat and Moodkee.

LARPENT, LADY.—Louisa, daughter Lady Larpent, died at Marseilles on the 23rd ult. She was a daughter of the late George Bailey, Esq., of Berkshire, and became in 1852 the second wife of the late Sir George Gerard de Hochedepied Larpent, Bart., who represented Nottingham in the Liberal interest in 1841-2, and was raised to the baronetage by Lord Melbourne's Ministry.

NISBETT, LADY.—On the 14th ult., at Kilclare Terrace, Westbourne Park, died the Lady Nisbett. She was of American extraction, and her maiden name was Alston. Early in the present century, she married the late Sir John Nisbett, Bart., of Deane, N.B., whose title became extinct on his decease without issue in 1839.

MEEK, SIR J., C.B.—On the 18th ult., died at Ilfracombe, aged 78, Sir James Meek, C.B. He entered the Civil Service of the navy in 1798, and was engaged for many years in supplying provisions for our fleet in the Mediterranean, and especially in gathering corn and other stores in Sicily to support the expedition against Egypt in 1801. He subsequently became a Commissioner of the Victualling Board; and, on the abolition of that department, was appointed Comptroller of the Victualling of the Naval and Transport Services. He was knighted on retiring from his post in 1851, when he also received the Order of the Bath. He was employed in collecting information relative to shipping and commerce in Germany and Belgium for the late Sir Robert Peel, who based his free trade measures in 1846 very much upon Sir James Meek's reports.

BERRY, LADY.—On the 17th ult., in Green Park Buildings, Bath, aged 76, died Lady Berry. She was Louisa, daughter of the late Rev. Samuel Foster, D.D., Rector of Shotley, Suffolk, and married, in 1797, the late Rear-Admiral Sir William Berry, Bart., K.C.B., who died without male issue in 1831, when the title, conferred on him in 1806 in consideration of his naval services, became extinct.

THE PROPERTY OF MARRIED WOMEN.—On Saturday, a public meeting was held under the direction of the Council of the Law Amendment Society, to consider the state of the law affecting the property of married women. Sir John Pakington, M.P., presided, in the absence of Lord Brougham. A good many ladies attended. Sir Ernest Perry, M.P., moved a series of resolutions, seconded by Mr. D. Hill, the Recorder of Birmingham, to the effect that the rules of the common law, which gave all the personal property of a woman on marriage, and all subsequently acquired property and earnings, to the husband, were unjust in principle and injurious in their operation. That the principle of Courts of Equity, which recognises separate property in a married woman, and invested her, with respect to such property, with all the rights of ownership, was in accordance with the requirements of the age, and in conformity with the opinions and usages of the wealthier and better instructed classes of society; and that the conflict between law and equity on the subject ought to be terminated by a general law based upon principles of equity which should apply to all classes. The resolutions were agreed to, after some little discussion, in which Mr. Monkton Milnes, M.P., Lord Denman, and others, took part.

LOD PALMERSTON rode on horseback from his official residence in town to Epsom Down on the Derby Day, saw the races, and rode back—a feat which not many men of seventy-two years of age would be very willing to undertake.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. XXI.  
MR. MIAALL'S MOTION.

We have had no attractive debate in the House of late, unless we except the discussion on Mr. Miall's motion, for overhauling the revenues of the Irish Church, and that only kept together for a length of time about 150 members. There were more at first, but many went away, and did not come back until the time drew on for the division, when the number rose up to 260, viz., 95 for the resolution, and 165 against. It was expected by some that there would be no House, or if a House should be made, that it would certainly be counted out at dinner time. But Mr. Miall's supporters had managed matters better than was supposed, for at four o'clock the House was unusually full for Tuesday. And even during the dangerous dinner time, there were always present over hundred members. The fact was, that it became known that the supporters of the motion had been very active with the "whip," and so the opponents were obliged to "whip" too, and thus between the two, all danger of a count-out disappeared.

## MR. MIAALL.

Mr. Edward Miall, the Hon. Member for Rochdale, is well known throughout a large circle, as an earnest and zealous advocate of anti-State Church principles. He was formerly a dissenting minister at Leicester, but in 1841 gave up his charge to establish the "Nonconformist" newspaper, for the express purpose of promoting more extensively his cherished opinions. This was considered at the time, by some of the "stricter sects," a very questionable step, and moreover the dissenters, at least the dissenting ministers, were not prepared for Mr. Miall's advanced views, and so for long time he had not only to contend against the Church party, who, of course, abused him virulently enough, but also against the half-heartedness, and in not a few cases positive opposition, of those who might naturally have been expected to render him their cordial support. But there were two things which sustained Mr. Miall, and made him conqueror at last, viz., his faith and great ability. Whether he is right or wrong, we do not here discuss, but that he believes in the bottom of his soul that he is right, no man can doubt; nor can any one question that greater ability has never been shown in the advocacy of any cause than that with which Mr. Miall has preached, in the columns of his paper and in his innumerable speeches, the principles which he holds; and now his paper stands at the head of the dissenting press, and he is a Member of Parliament. And he, whose doctrines were once, and that not long ago, denounced by the Church people as revolutionary, and thought so ultra by dissenters that ministers refused to lend their places of worship for his meetings, and counseled their flocks not to attend, can now expound them to the British Senate, and get 95 members to vote that they are worthy of the consideration of the House. Is it not still true, then, that "Faith can remove mountains?" We could not help thinking so, as we listened to Mr. Miall, whilst, for an hour and a half, he expounded and enforced his principles, eliciting the hearty cheers of his friends, and compelling the respectful attention of even his bitterest foes.

## HIS SUCCESS.

Up to the night of this debate, Mr. Miall has scarcely been appreciated in the House. He has had much to contend with. In the first place, his antecedents were not such as to secure him favour in the eyes of members of Parliament. "A radical parson turned politician," "a fellow who has come to upset the Church," was hardly likely to get a hearing from Noble Lords, Gallant Officers, and Country Squires, on the Tory benches. Nor could it be expected that the Whigs would give him much encouragement; for neither do they like "men who come to turn the world upside down." And, further, Mr. Miall's want of physical power will always be a hindrance to him. His voice is thin and weak, and unless the House is predisposed to listen, he never can command its attention. All this Mr. Miall is quite conscious of; and therefore it is that he does not often attempt to speak, although his silence sometimes brings down upon him the censure of thoughtless friends outside. But Mr. Miall has succeeded at last, if he never did before; for, by the testimony of friends and foes, it is settled that he not only fully obtained and kept the attention of the House on the occasion of this debate, but delivered a remarkably able and effective speech. We also heard the speech, and fall in with the general opinion. And we can further say that we never saw the House more attentive. The Members were not only quiet, but earnestly listening, that a link in the reasoning might not be dropped, or even a word be lost. And when the Honourable Member finished, a hearty cheer told him that if he could not carry his motion, he had conquered for himself a new and far higher position in the House of Commons than he had ever attained to before. But really and truly, though the motion was defeated by a majority of seventy, Mr. Miall had achieved a success. In the first place, he had got the House to listen, and, considering the subject and the character of the British Senate, that of itself was no mean achievement. But, when we consider what it was that Mr. Miall proposed to do—nothing less than to lay the axe to the root of the "Protestant Church of Ireland, as by law established"—and that ninety-three, or, inclusive of pairs, about 130, had sanctioned this daring proposition, the result of the debate must be considered an extraordinary circumstance in parliamentary history, and one which foreshadows more extraordinary things in a very distant future.

## WHY HE SUCCEEDED.

Much of the success is, no doubt, owing to Mr. Miall's prudent and judicious conduct. For a long time after he became a Member of Parliament, there can be no question that he disappointed the expectations of some of his friends. They had heard him speak at public meetings, and had felt his power whilst from the platform he eloquently expounded his views; and they expected that he would carry everything before him in the House, as he had been wont to do in more popular assemblies. But Mr. Miall knew better than even to attempt this; he was well aware that the House of Commons was not a public meeting, and that to speak there effectively on such a subject was altogether a very different matter from writing in the columns of the "Nonconformist," or addressing an assembly of willing listeners at Crosby Hall; and, therefore, notwithstanding the expressed disapprobation of some of his too zealous followers, the sneer of his old dissenting opponents, and the frequent deprecatory remarks which were made in dissenting circles—to wit, "that he had found his level," "that he had promised great things and done nothing," "that he was like all the rest, he had attained his object, got M.P. tacked to his name, and put his principles in his pocket"—he bided his time, never attempted to bully the House, nor obstructed himself and his opinions upon it when it was unwilling to listen. In short, like a wise man, he waited until his turn should come, regardless alike of the sneers of foes and the impatience of friends; and he has now got his reward.

## MR. JOHN MACGREGOR.

But who is this who rises in support of the Honourable Member for Rochdale? And why does his rising excite the merriment of the House? This is Mr. John Macgregor, the Honourable Member for Glasgow, and, according to Dod, by no means the least distinguished of our public men, for in the "Parliamentary Companion" he is thus described—"Was High Sheriff of Prince Edward's Island, and a Member of the Colonial Legislature; has been employed on commercial missions to Germany, Austria, Paris, Naples, &c.; was first Secretary to the Board of Trade from 1839 till August 1847; is author of 'The History, Geography, and Resources of British America' and other books too numerous to mention; is Governor of the Royal British Bank, and Chairman of the Eastern Archipelago Company."—So far Dod. To which we may add, that the Honourable Member has the reputation of being exceeding great at figures; it is said, indeed, that there is no complicated knot of statistics that he cannot untie as "familiar as his garter." And, further, as we have already said, he is Honourable Member for Glasgow. How, then, is it, that so noted a man, representing so famous a place, should thus be greeted when he rises to address the House? We reply, that this is a very difficult question to answer. But so it is—for the Honourable Member never gets up to address the House but his rising is the signal for fun. And when the stranger outside hears bursting through the doors laughter and shouting, long and loud, now lulling down, and anon breaking out into a perfect storm, he may be quite sure that the Honourable Member for Glasgow is on his legs. It cannot be what he says that excites this fun, for, if we

may judge by what reaches the reporters' gallery, that is quite unintelligible. We fancy it must be the strange accent, strange modulation of the voice, and wondrous action of the Honourable Member, that thus provokes the mirth of the House. But there was on this occasion more than mere mirth, for the House during the whole time that Mr. Macgregor was up, was a scene of right down rollicking school-boy fun. Viewed from our position the scene was a perfect Babel, as difficult to understand as it is to describe; and all the more strange from the contrast which it presented to the solemnity and earnestness which pervaded the House while Mr. Miall was speaking. Our readers must try to imagine the Honourable Member standing on the floor of the House, vociferating, throwing his arms about, turning himself round to every point of the compass; sometimes with his back towards the Speaker, amidst roars of laughter, interspersed with ironical cries of "Hear, hear, hear," "Divide, divide, divide," and bursts of "Order, order, order!" and if they can do this, they will get some slight glimpse of the scene. Whilst this was going on, Mr. Speaker tried several times to assert his authority, by calling out in his usual sonorous tones, "Order, order, order!" when there was a slight calm, but it was to no purpose, and at last he quietly allowed the Members to have their fun out. Of course, if he had risen from his seat the House would have been still in a moment; but that he did not do, and he was doubtless right, for in the temper that the House then was, the roar would have been resumed when he sat down, and would have only lasted the longer for the interruption; whereas, as it was, the Honourable Member got soon tired of contending with the elements, and in about ten minutes from the time when he arose he sat down, and the House resumed the debate as quietly as if nothing had happened.

## THE ITALIAN POISONERS OF THE 17TH CENTURY.

In the year 1659, it was made known to Pope Alexander VII. that great numbers of young women had avowed in the confessional that they had poisoned their husbands with slow poison. The Catholic clergy, who in general hold the secrets of the confessional so sacred, were shocked and alarmed at the extraordinary prevalence of the crime. Although they refrained from revealing the names of the penitents, they conceived themselves bound to apprise the head of the Church of the enormities that were practised. The authorities, when once they began to inquire, learned that a society of young wives had been formed, and met nightly, for some mysterious purpose, at the house of an old woman named Hieronyma Spara. This hag was a reputed witch and fortune-teller, and acted as president of the young viragos, several of whom, it was afterwards ascertained, belonged to the first families of Rome.

In order to have positive evidence of the practices of this female conclave, a lady was employed by the Government to seek an interview with them. She dressed herself out in the most magnificent style; and having been amply provided with money, she found but little difficulty, when she had stated her object, of procuring an audience of La Spara and her sisterhood. She pretended to be in extreme distress of mind on account of the infidelities and ill-treatment of her husband, and implored La Spara to furnish her with a few drops of the wonderful elixir, the efficacy of which in sending cruel husbands to "their last long sleep" was so much vaunted by the ladies of Rome. La Spara fell into the snare, and sold her some of her "drops" at a price commensurate with the supposed wealth of the purchaser.

The liquor thus obtained was subjected to an analysis, and found to be, as was suspected, a slow poison; clear, tasteless, and limpid. Upon this evidence, the house was surrounded by the police, and La Spara and her companions taken into custody. La Spara, who is described as having been a little ugly old woman, was put to the torture, but obstinately refused to confess her guilt. Another of the women, named La Gratiola, had less firmness, and laid bare all the secrets of the infernal sisterhood, La Spara, Gratiola, and three young women, who had poisoned their husbands, were hanged together at Rome. Upwards of thirty women were whipped publicly through the streets; and in a few months afterwards, nine women more were hanged for poisoning; and another bevy, including many young and beautiful girls, were whipped through the streets of Rome.

This severity did not put a stop to the practice, and jealous women and avaricious men, anxious to step into the inheritance of fathers, uncles, or brothers, resorted to poison. As it was quite free from taste, colour, and smell, it was administered without exciting suspicion. The skilful vendors compounded it of different degrees of strength, so that the poisoners had only to say whether they wanted their victims to die in a week, a month, or six months, and they were suited with corresponding doses. The vendors were chiefly women, of whom the most celebrated was a hag named Tophania, who was in this way accessory to the death of upwards of 600 persons. This woman appears to have been a dealer in poisons from her girlhood, and resided first at Palermo and then at Naples.

Although this woman carried on her infamous traffic so extensively, it was extremely difficult to meet with her. She lived in continual dread of discovery. She constantly changed her name and residence; and pretending to be a person of great godliness, resided in monasteries for months together. Whenever she was more than usually apprehensive of detection, she sought ecclesiastical protection. She was soon apprised of the search made for her by the Viceroy of Naples, and, according to her practice, took refuge in a monastery. Either the search after her was not very rigid, or her measures were exceedingly well taken; for she contrived to elude the vigilance of the authorities for several years. What is still more extraordinary, as showing the ramifications of her system, her trade was still carried on to as great an extent as before. Lebat informs us that she had so great a sympathy for poor wives who hated their husbands and wanted to get rid of them, but could not afford to buy her wonderful *ague*, that she made them presents of it.

She was not allowed, however, to play this game for ever; she was at length discovered in a nunnery, and her retreat cut off. The Viceroy made several representations to the Superior to deliver her up, but without effect. The Abbess, supported by the Archbishop of the diocese, constantly refused. The public curiosity was in consequence so much excited at the additional importance thus thrust upon the criminal, that thousands of persons visited the nunnery in order to catch a glimpse of her.

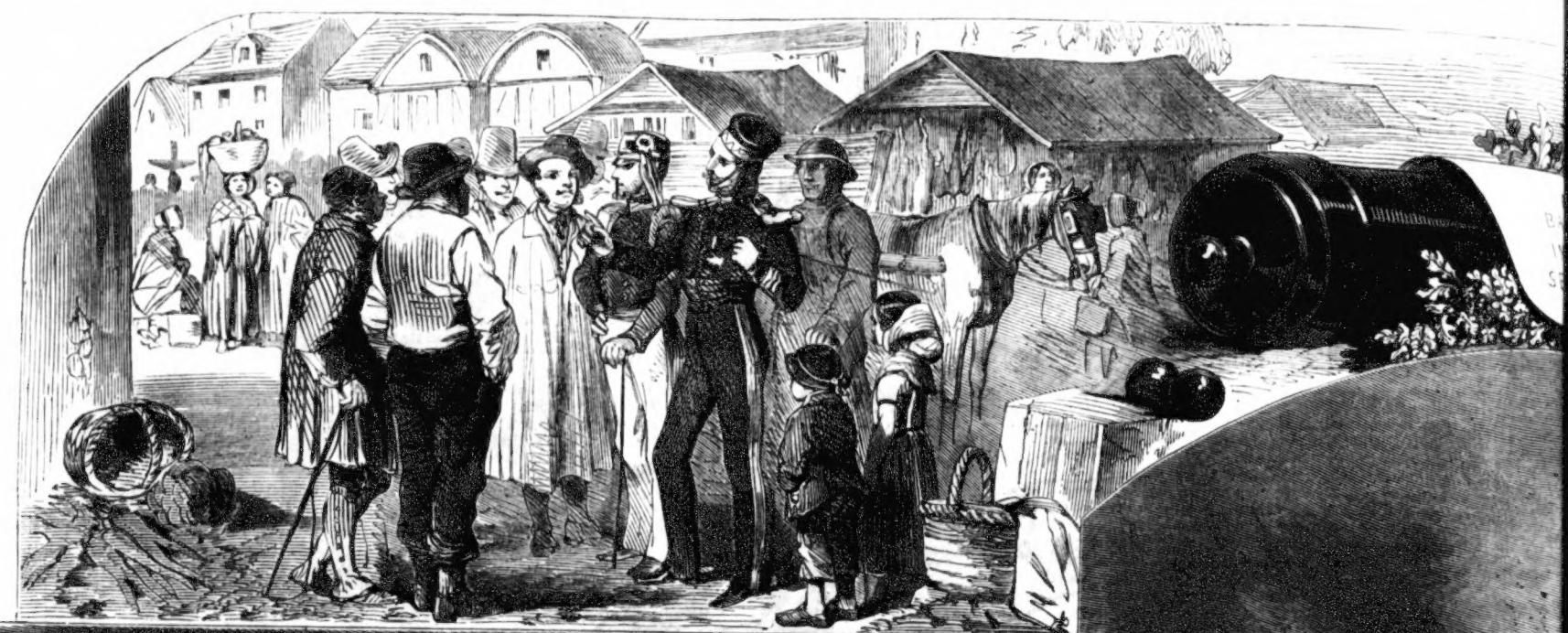
The patience of the Viceroy appears to have been exhausted by these delays. Being a man of sense, and not a very zealous Catholic, he determined that even the Church should not shield a criminal so atrocious. Setting the privileges of the nunnery at defiance, he sent a troop of soldiers, who broke over the walls, and carried her away, *et al armis*. The Archbishop, Cardinal Pignatelli, was highly indignant, and threatened to excommunicate and lay the whole city under interdict. All the inferior clergy, animated by the *esprit du corps*, took up the question, and so worked upon the superstitious and bigoted people, that they were ready to rise in a mass to storm the palace of the Viceroy and rescue her prisoner.

These were serious difficulties; but the Viceroy was not a man to be daunted. Indeed he seems to have acted throughout with a rare union of astuteness, coolness, and energy. To avoid the evil consequences of the threatened excommunication, he placed a guard round the palace of the Archbishop, judging that the latter would not be so foolish as to launch out an anathema which would cause the city to be starved, and himself in it. The market-people would not have dared to come to the city with provisions so long as it remained under the ban. There would have been too much inconvenience to himself and his ghostly brethren in such a measure; and, as the Viceroy anticipated, the good Cardinal reserved his thunders for some other occasion.

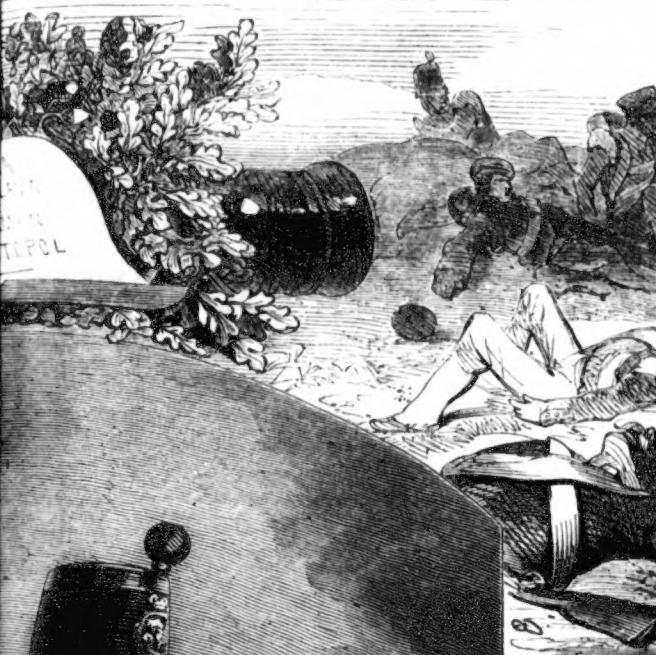
## HIS COUNTRY'S HOPE—HIS COUNTRY'S PRIDE—HIS COUNTRY'S CARE.

The Engraving on the following page tells its own story, and needs no written description to render it intelligible. It is the history of hundreds of brave men, whose tale of daring, proceeding from their own lips, will be listened to through coming years, at cottage doorways and in sunlit corners. We should mention that the three principal subjects in the design are copied from photographs taken from life by Mr. O. G. Kiplinger.

JUNE 7, 1856.



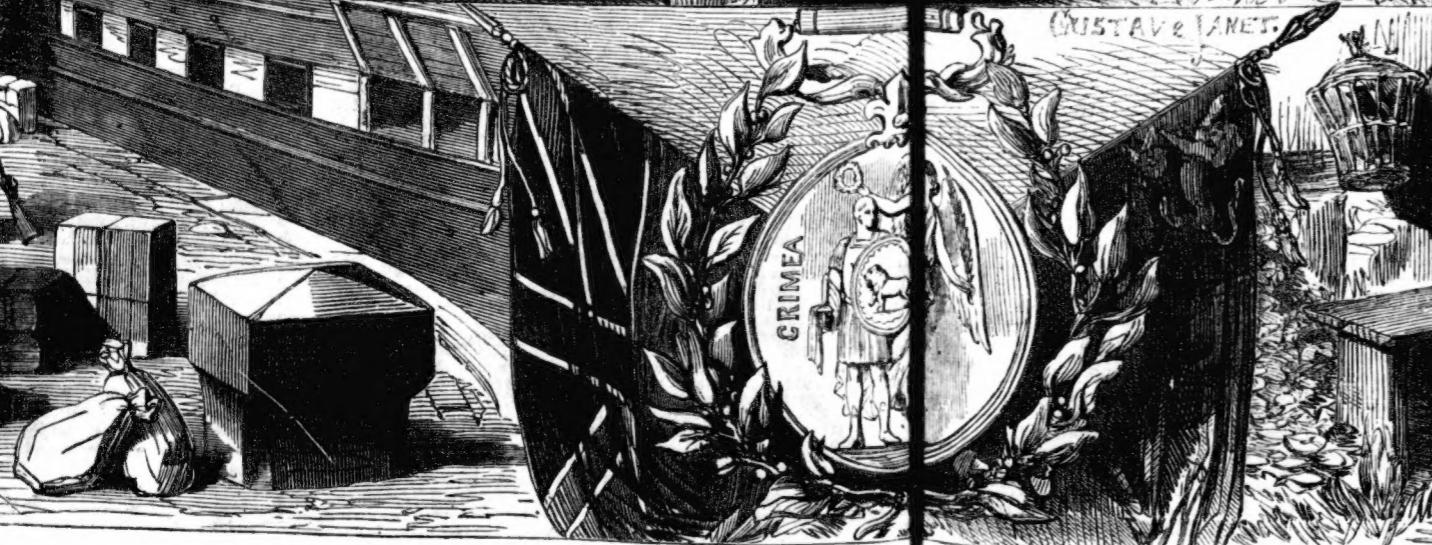
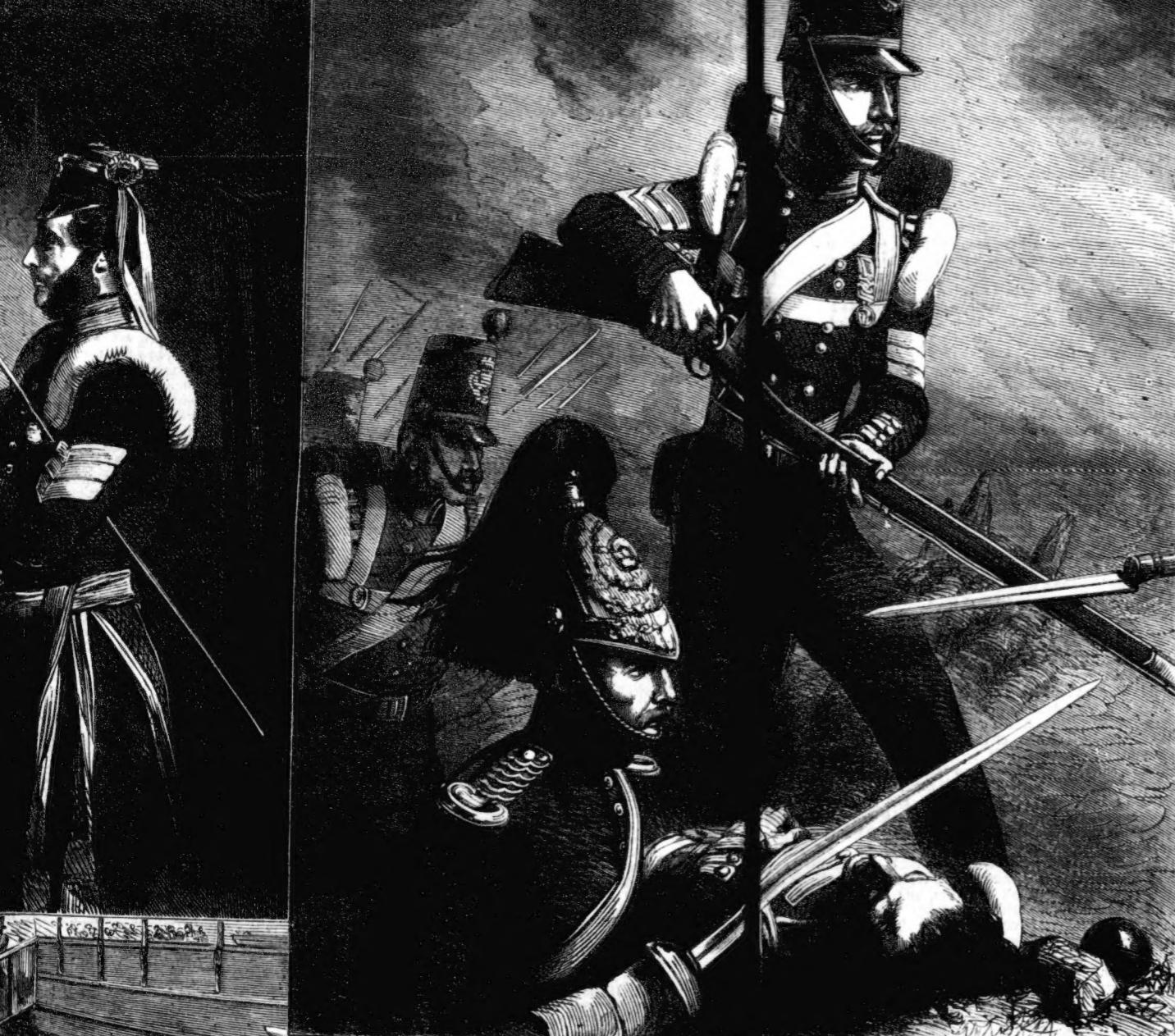
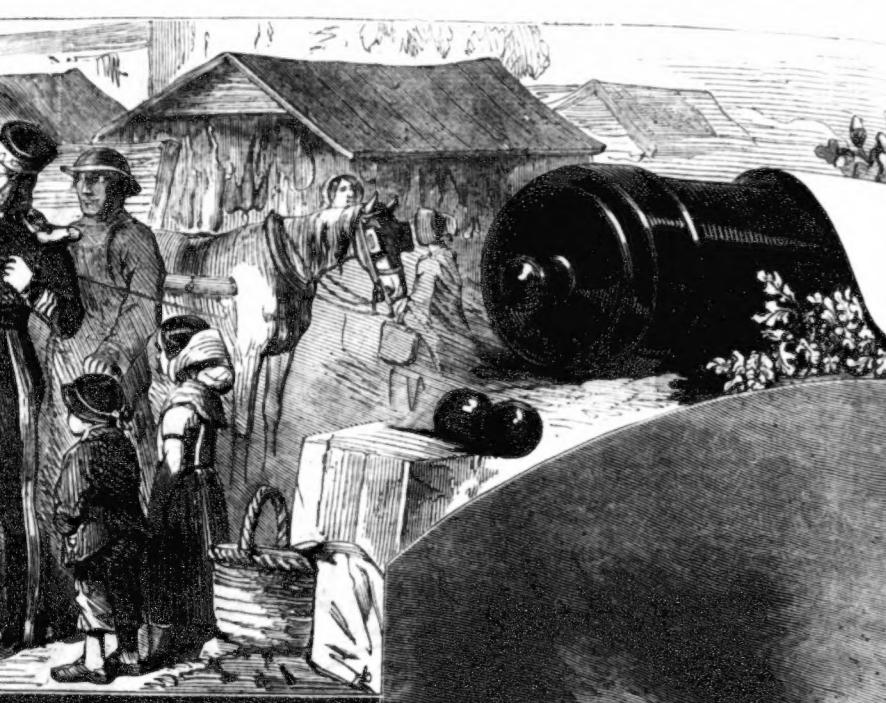
JUNE 7, 1856.



HIS COUNTRY'S HOPE.

HIS COUNTRY

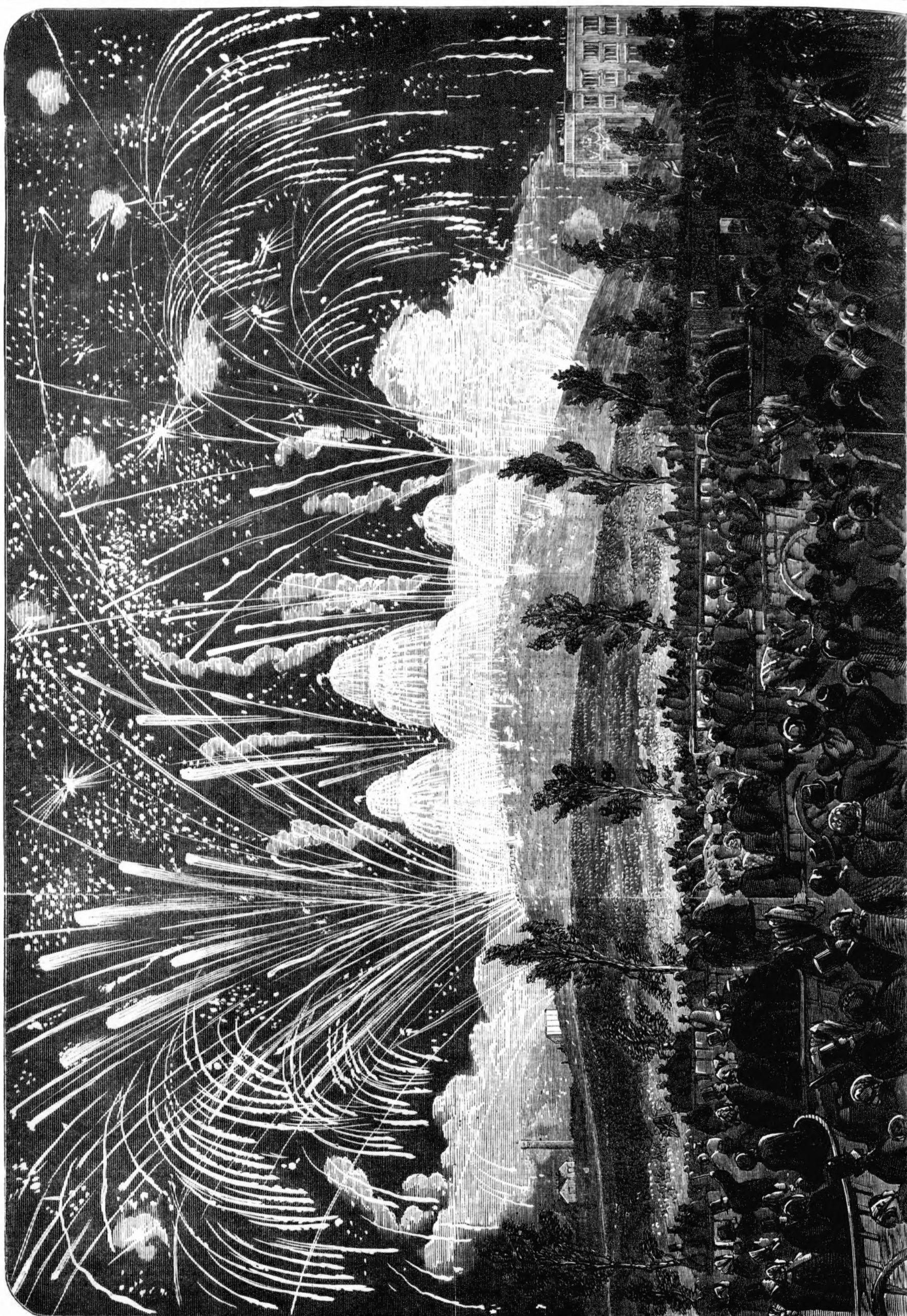
PRIDE.



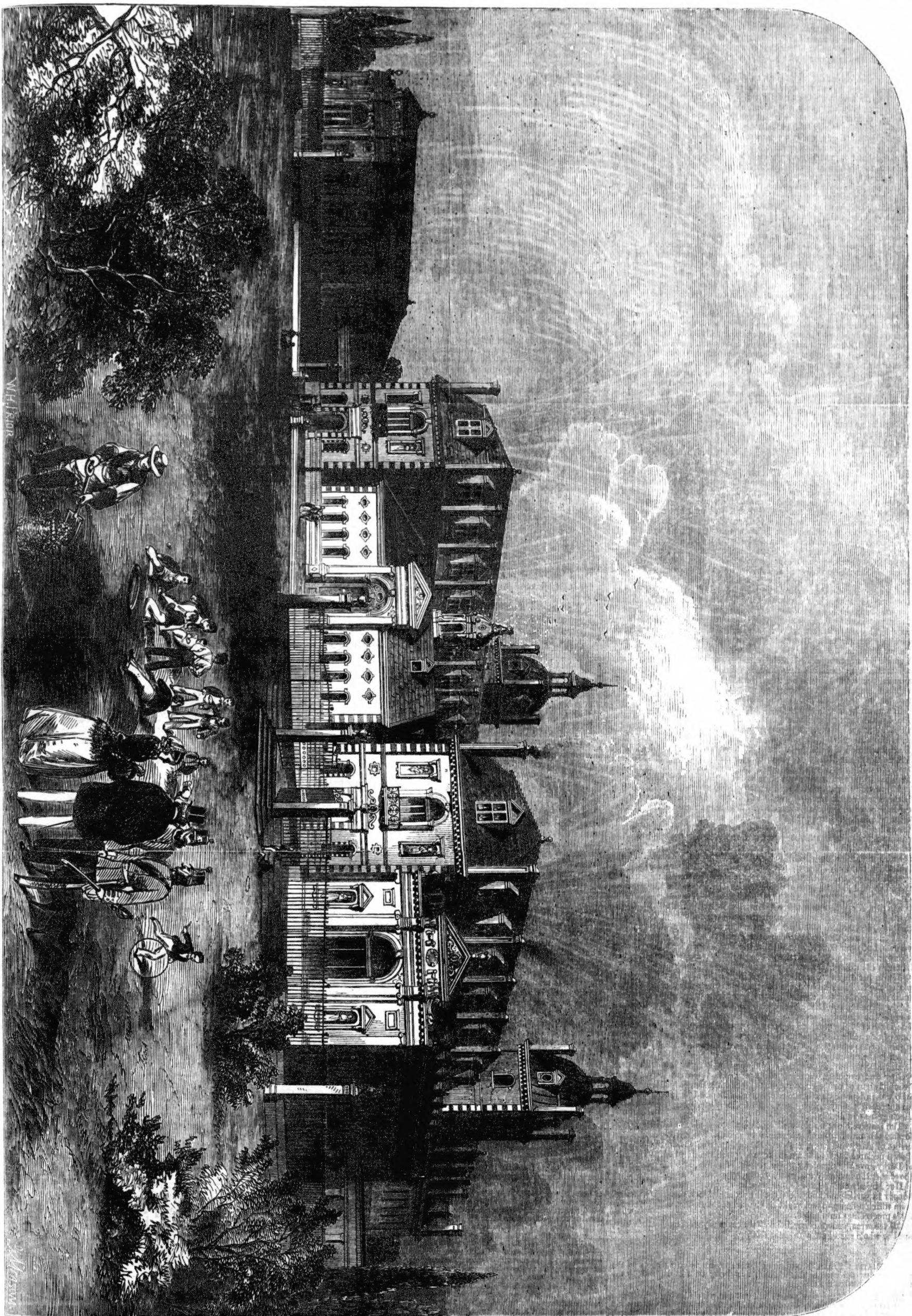
HIS COUNTRY'S PRIDE.



HIS COUNTRY'S CARE.



THE WELLINGTON COLLEGE, IN COURSE OF ERECTION NEAR SANDHURST, FOR THE EDUCATION OF ORPHAN SONS OF MILITARY OFFICERS.  
THE DISPLAY OF FIREWORKS AT PRIMROSE HILL, ON THE DAY OF THE PEACE REJOICING.



THE DISPLAY OF FIREWORKS AT PRIMROSE HILL, ON THE DAY OF THE PEACE REJOICING.  
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